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Moulten Takes on Big Tech

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"Smart speakers and doorbells are great, but consumers should have a way to fight back when tech companies collect more data than Americans have agreed to give up."

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VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

102 INFANTRY DIVISION, CROSSING THE RHINE INTO GERMANY WITH BOB CHASE

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Living throughout the Merrimack Valley, with his family during his adult life, originally from Lynn, Massachusetts, Robert was born on July 17, 1926 and is a graduate of Lynn English High School. He served in the US Army in the European Theater during the Second World War with the 102 Infantry Division. He now lives with his son Glenn, in Rollinsford, New Hampshire.

Bob Chase reached the rank of Sargent First Class in the US Army, and later served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard reaching the rank of Major, after the war. He was an infantryman, considered to be the backbone of the US Army, even to this day. During World War II, the standard issue weapon of the infantryman was the M-1 Garand. Each World War II era infantryman in the European Theater, carried this weapon, along with a bayonet, and four clips of eight cartridges each for a basic combat load of thirty-two rounds. During our breakfast meeting, Bob pointed out the seasoned infantrymen in his unit would carry a lot more ammunition. Extra ammunition was taken from wounded soldiers, those killed in action, and those rotating to the rear. Some soldiers would simply get in line twice and draw a double issue of ammo. Water, socks, and ammunition were the infantryman's best ally.

While having breakfast, Bob talked about the 102 Infantry Division crossing the Rhine River into Germany near the end of the fighting in Europe. His unit was brought across by the US Navy, despite being miles from the nearest ocean. Bob cleared up a question I had about gear, in combat, infantrymen travel light. Bedding, changes of clothing and cold weather gear were left behind in favor of ammo, water, socks and a little food. He recalled his duffle bag being put into storage when his outfit was sent into combat and stated that was the last time he ever saw his personal gear. Once, during a break in the fighting, a US Army truck came up from the rear echelon and dumped a pile of boots and uniforms out for his platoon to sort through to see if they could find something that would fit. This delivery of gear came, as Bob put it, after the rear echelon troops picked through the gear to meet their needs.

Bob's division was formed on September 15th, 1942 at Camp Maxey, Texas. During the war, the division had three different Commanders, Major General John B. Anderson, followed by Major General Frank A. Keating. The last Commander was Brigadier General Charles M. Busbee, who led the unit until it was deactivated in February 1946.

The 102nd Infantry Division, under the command of Major General Frank A. Keating, arrived on the Western Front in the European Theater of Operations at Cherbourg, France, in September 1944. After a short period of training, the division moved to the German-Netherlands border. The division entered combat in October of 1944 and assumed responsibility for the sector covering Wurm to Waurichen. In November of 1944, the division prepared for an attack on the Roer.

After serving along the Roer, the division took over the XIII Corps sector from the Wurm River, north of the village of Wurm, to Barmen on the south, and trained for river crossing. During February 1945, the 102d attacked across the

HERO: PAGE 23

Outlaw Murder So There Will Be No More Death

It has become comical watching feckless and ignorant politicians having knee- jerk reactions every time there's a mass shooting.

They trip over themselves to get in front of a TV camera to exploit murder victims for political gain before the bodies are even cold.

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren shamelessly took to twitter within minutes of the El Paso shooting, demanding 'common-sense comprehensive gun reform' - which is political code for banning and seizing your guns.

Democrat presidential candidates Corey Booker and Robert (Beto) O'Rourke blamed President Trump for the shooting, hoping to please the base of their party who blames Trump for everything from white supremacy to global warming.

Democrat presidential candidates Kamela Harris and Eric Swalwell (who dropped out) have both said they would confiscate guns if elected, and put law abiding citizens in jail if they refused to turn in their weapons.

At least seven democrat presidential candidates sent out fundraising emails before the El Paso victims were even identified - ghoulishly trying to get rich on the murder victims and their families.

In an attempt to emotionally manipulate the population, democrats and their propaganda ministers in the so called "news media" cry about "the children" and paint anyone who disagrees with their so-called 'solutions' as bad people.

"We should ban assault weapons" they cry. "We should ban "weapons of war" they screech.

But, there is no legal definition of an "assault weapon".

All guns are "assault weapons.

All guns are "weapons of war".

And that's the point. Given the chance, most democrats in D.C. would ban all guns given the chance, claiming it will reduce "gun violence".

It won't. And they know that.

Criminals by definition don't care how many laws Congress passes. To them, laws are just words on a piece of paper. Don't believe us? Ask the dead women who had restraining orders against their killers when they were snuffed out.

The fact is, the El Paso shooter used a magazine that carries more than 100 rounds per clip when he slaughtered people in Walmart. That magazine was already illegal in Texas. That law didn't stop the El Paso shooter from using it.

What's more, we had an 'assault weapons ban' in the 80's and 90's where certain types of rifles were banned based on how 'scary' they looked - even though the guns banned were no different than other rifles that didn't "look scary".

At the end of that ten year ban, the SCIENCE and the DATA showed that during the ban, gun violence actually went up. It's odd that the party which claims to respect SCIENCE and DATA when it comes to global warming, completely ignore the SCIENCE and DATA when it comes to gun crimes.

The fact is, rifles and so called 'assault weapons' have been around for more than 150 years. Yet, mass shootings like Columbine, El Paso, and Sandy Hook are recent phenomenons. Why were there no mass shootings of this frequency in the 1940's, 50's, 70's? Especially when the types of rifles used in recent mass shootings were much more plentiful back then.

It's clear the problem is not the availability of such weapons. SCIENCE would dictate that the so called 'solutions' proposed by democrat demagogues and the anti-gun media will only increase gun crimes.

Government cannot stop violence. In fact, our entire criminal justice system was designed to respond to crime not to prevent it. As a free society our government was designed to punish those who break the law, not those who are 'likely' to break the law. That kind of governance is tyrannical.

Finally, it is patently dishonest to say that banning any type of gun will stop those hell bent on killing lots of people. Timothy McVeigh blew up the Murrah building using fertilizer. The Boston Marathon bombers used crock pots. The 911 terrorists used planes and box cutters.

Banning guns or instituting gun control will do nothing to stop someone hell bent on committing mass murder.

Maybe our government should just pass laws banning murder. According to the Democrats, that will end all killing. ◊

Latino Underrepresentation in Methuen's Municipal Govt.

Tomas G. Michel
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Municipal governments should embody the view of its constituency and promote inclusion of the different segments of its residents. Ensure that policies and procedures update as it does their population's demographics, and viewpoints. Educate voters effectively about matters at stake. And lastly, to ensure the determent of consent and success, of the narrow interests to govern official structures. All of which can be attained by pursuing a proportionate representation between the residents of a community and their elected officials.

Jordan Normandia is running for Methuen's City Council on Central District, to bring back operational balance to the public agencies, should he be elected. A 26-year-old Marine Veteran with a public administration background, currently working for the State of Massachusetts. He is concerned about the transparency of municipal operations and would like to promote a sense of community that provides a platform for younger generations.

As of today, Latinos possess no representation in Methuen's city council body, despite being a 27.2% of the 47,255 residents, agreeing with the U.S. Census Bureau. Latinos are almost a third of this Essex County city's population, yet not reflect with any of the nine legislators holding office. Our country may be based on a system where the citizens exercise power by voting —one we call democracy—, but Methuen is an utter example, that local governments may have flaws at reflecting a fair ratio between their population and their elected officials.

The Latino leadership hole extends to more of the states' 351 municipalities, in which Lawrence and Chelsea, are the only two cities with proportionate political representation, relatively to their share of Latino residents, according to a research of the Mauricio Gastón Institute in UMass Boston by Bianca Ortiz-Wythe.

Seeking a healthy representative-constituent relationship, in which the constituent feels identified with the representative, is crucial for the upward development of a community; to generate a sense of trust in leaders. Normandia already counts with the support of East District's Councilor, Eunice D. Zeigler, whom expressed "I want him to be successful" and has endorsed the young man's platform.

Amplify Latinx is a non-partisan, collaborative movement, whose mission is to build economic and political power by

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

Ethics and Reason – the Forgotten Bridge Between Politics & Religion

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The following two questions are related – the first was priority in premodern philosophy, the second is in modern philosophy:

1. How should people behave?
2. What behaviors ought to be allowed?

The first question is ethical - the science of self governance. The second is political - the science of community or state governance. The first question is much more important than the second, and the answer to second is shaped by the first. Yet, how many talking heads today in the media and academia discuss and debate ethics and morality rather than politics and government? Why aren't cable news shows spending their time debating what it means to be human and what behaviors correspond to the flourishing of human nature? Instead, people seem to be satisfied discussing the more shallow questions of politics and government. Why do we choose to focus on the more mundane level?

In short, one reason is that modern man has lost confidence in his ability to reason, and now holds ethics and morality to be the sole domain of religious faith. Matters of faith, it is falsely believed, are arbitrary subjective beliefs, not grounded in science or objective truth. There is nothing further from the truth. Yet, sadly, many believe this. Consequently the art of discussion and debate have been relegated to politics and government, and universal principles of morality and virtue are ignored in the public sphere. This has dire consequences on society.

One consequence of this is the redefining of 'liberty' as meaning freedom from governmental interference rather than the freedom to do what we ought. Once confidence was lost in knowing what is objectively good, we were led us down the road of creating an all-encompassing "right to privacy". Most people have lost hope that reasonable people can come to a consensus on what is true and good, leaving us with a very weak libertarian consequentialist ethic: "As long as my behavior does directly harm anyone, I should be free to do it." There are four main problems that come to mind with this ethic. First, there is no thought to whether the act itself is good or evil, right or wrong. Secondly, there is an unrealistic presumption that we can measure all the consequences of a potential action - immediate as well as long lasting, obvious as well as subtle. Some acts, for example, have positive immediate consequences that are easily foreseen but dire long-term effects that are not. Some acts may not cause physical harm, but could cause great psychological, spiritual, and/or social harm. Thirdly, no society will ever flourish if the focus is on doing what we desire and can get away with rather than doing what is good. Lastly, in this new ethic freedom is defined only in the pre-act choice to do the action, not in the result and effects of the act. This point is significant. The degree one's personal freedom is always lessened when we violate natural law, i.e. act upon disordered desires rather than what is truly good. It is very easy to abuse one's freedom to choose behaviors that lead to vice, obsession, or addiction. In other words, personal choice can end up in personal

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Where Are the CBD Gummies in Massachusetts

Brian Jakimczyk
YOURCBDSTOREMA.COM

With the FDA's recently issued policy preventing the sale of CBD infused food, legitimate vendors have lost the ability to sell quality CBD gummies (as well as other CBD food infused products) in the State of Massachusetts. It seems that the intention of the FDA's policy was to prevent restaurants from adding CBD from unknown sources to food items. This policy makes sense because CBD is unregulated and there is no way to monitor either the quantity or quality of the CBD being directly added to food.

Although the policy does seek to protect the consumer, it has had unintended consequences. It may have removed concerns about poor quality CBD being added to burgers and juice bar specials, but what about the CBD infused food products that are made in regulated facilities, that are third party tested, and that are properly labeled? Isn't it possible to draft legislation that articulates high standards for CBD infused food products, rather than legislation that denounces every instance of it?

The answer is yes. State Rep. Mark J. Cusack along with 28 other representatives have presented a comprehensive bill (House Docket, NO. 4339) that will allow for the sale of quality CBD infused food products. The bill has a considerable amount of support from both legislators and consumers, and it is expected to pass without a hitch. After the passing of the bill, consumers will be able to purchase quality CBD infused food products in the State of Massachusetts again.

Speaking of quality CBD products, at Your CBD Store Reading & Your CBD Store North Andover, we carry only quality Sunmed products. Our gummy bears are Broad Spectrum (0% THC), they are made from industrial hemp, in a regulated facility by PhD Chemists, and they are labeled per FDA guidelines. These products are third party tested for quality and compliance. All of us here at Your CBD Store look forward to adding these high quality, delicious, and fun CBD products back to our shelves as soon as possible! In the meantime, stop by either location for a free sample of our other natural products. ◊

Lottery Produces $1.09B in All Time High Profit in '19

BOSTON – State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced today that the Massachusetts State Lottery produced an estimated $1.092 billion in net profit for the Commonwealth during the 2019 fiscal year that began July 1, 2018 and ended June 30, 2019.

This is the highest net profit total in the Lottery's 48-year history, surpassing the previous record of $1.039 billion set in the 2017 fiscal year.

Net profit for the 2018 fiscal year was $997 million, the third highest total. Lottery revenues range in at an estimated record high of $5.499 billion, surpassing the previous record of $5.292 billion set last fiscal year. It is the fifth consecutive year that revenues have eclipsed the $5 billion mark.

"Another net profit record is a proud achievement for the Lottery. We continue to perform at the highest levels even as we face mounting challenges in today's retail environment," said Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission.

"This profit generates local aid, critical to every community across the Commonwealth." While the FY 2019 figures have not been formally audited, the Lottery does not expect them to change substantially once that annual review process is complete. Lottery officials anticipate completing the finalized financial statement of operations by mid-September.

The Lottery's network of retailers earned an estimated $314.4 million in commissions and bonuses in FY 2019, also a record, surpassing the previous high of $303 million set in FY 2018. With approximately 7,500 retailers, that amounts to an average of over $41,000 in income for each of the Lottery's retail partners. Contributing to FY 2019's record-setting revenue figure were jackpot-driven sales of Mega Millions, the continued growth of Keno, and the consistent performance of instant ticket products. Mega Millions sales increased 73.6 percent over FY 2018 to a total of $154.3 million.

This growth was largely fueled by a sequence of drawings in the fall of 2018 that culminated in advertised jackpots of $1 billion and $1.6 billion. Keno sales exceeded $1 billion for the first time since the launch of the game in 1993.

With an estimated total of $1.055 billion, Keno sales were up 5.8 percent over last fiscal year. Sales of instant tickets increased 2.2 percent, ringing in at an estimated $3.673 billion, also an all-time mark. The Lottery set another record by paying out an estimated $3.987 billion in prizes in FY 2019.

An estimated 72.5 percent of all revenue was returned to players in FY 2019. Prize payouts can fluctuate from year to year based on the schedule or rate at which players cash in their prizes. In FY 2019, Lottery players won 202 prizes valued at $1 million or more, including 26 prizes valued at $2 million or more. The Lottery's administrative costs remained approximately 1.9 percent of overall revenues, the lowest of any U.S. lottery.

Over the course of the 2019 fiscal year, the Lottery relocated its headquarters, converted to a new host system, and completed the process of replacing its 20-year old agent terminals, all on or ahead of schedule, and within budget.

"Setting records across the board, while simultaneously executing multiple major operational transitions, is a testament to the devotion of our team and the cooperation of our dedicated retail partners," said Michael Sweeney, the Lottery's Executive Director.

"These accomplishments are also the result of the thoughtful guidance provided by the Treasury and our commissioners."

The Massachusetts State Lottery was created in 1972 to generate local aid revenues for the Commonwealth's cities and towns. Since its inception, the Lottery has returned more than $27 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth.

For more information about the state Lottery, please visit www.masslottery.com. ◊

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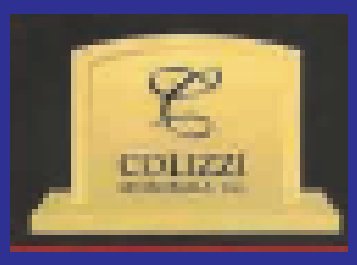

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"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to August and the last full month of the summer season.

During August the days will continue to get shorter and also the sun will not be as high in the sky compared to June and July. We can still see hot and humid weather in August with 90 degree or higher temperatures. However with the shorter days and the lower sun angle it is more difficult to see the intense heat we had in July. July is known as the hottest month of the year.

It did live up to its reputation this year as Boston had its hottest July ever. What a hot and active July!! We saw intense heat during the month of July. Temperatures reached into the upper 90s during the weekend of July 20th and 21st. The upper level high pressure system off the east coast of the US known as the Bermuda High became strong and expanded north into our region.

This pushed the jet stream to our north putting our region on the south side (hot side) of the jet stream. True summer weather finally came during July after a slow start with chilly weather during May and June. Boston had its first heat wave of the season on July 19th-21st.

A heat wave occurs when the high temperature reaches 90 degrees or higher for 3 or more consecutive days. More heat and humidity occurred during the latter part of July when the high temperatures reached 90 degrees plus.

A second heat wave for Boston and other areas in New England on July 28th -30th. In addition to the intense heat and high humidity in July we also saw hurricane Barry strike the gulf coast of the US with strong winds and heavy rain.

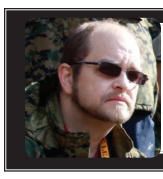
The other major weather event in July were the 3 tornadoes which occurred on Cape Cod on Tuesday July 23rd. Prior to this day severe thunderstorms occurred on Cape Cod and parts of southeast MA on Monday evening July 22nd.

On that Monday, a front was stalled off the New England south coast. South of this front, hot and humid air clashed with cooler less humid air north of this stationary front. This caused severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and heavy rain. There were many damage reports on that Monday in New Jersey.

On Tuesday morning July 23rd severe thunderstorms developed and moved towards Cape Cod. A tornado touched down in Yarmouth which caused a roof to blow off a motel. A second tornado touched down in Harwich on Cape Cod. This tornado caused many trees and power lines to fall which knocked out electricity in most of Harwich.

Due to the numerous trees and power lines down, it took some time to restore power. A 3rd tornado was on the ground for 1 minute at 12 noon to 12:01 in West Yarmouth. The 1st tornado touching down in Yarmouth had winds of 110 miles per hour. This was one mile per hour less for an EF-2 tornado which has max winds starting at 111 miles per hour. E stands for enhanced F stands for fujita. More severe weather occurred on July 31st over Boston and the north shore. Many trees and power lines fell in Marblehead knocking out electricity. A microburst occurred and caused Logan Airport to shut down for a while. These severe storms occurred ahead of a cold front. Again not all areas saw rain or severe weather. During the summer some areas can get heavy rain and storms and other areas may see nothing at all. July was an active month and next month we will see if this trend continues in August.

Also next month we will take a look at this year's hurricane season so far. In the meantime stay safe and drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. Also do not leave children and pets in cars with the windows closed!! And remember stay away if you see downed power lines. Enjoy the rest of the summer of 2019. ◊



PAYING ATTENTION!
with Tom Duggan

Methuen Charter Protects Incumbent and Insiders

For years I have been railing against provisions in the Methuen Charter that rob voters of their right to vote and run for office. For years, officials in Methuen have ignored my pleas, I assume, because these charter provisions benefit incumbents and political insiders.

This year the city council is seeking to put forth charter changes and I'd like to try one more time to get the voters to demand two changes in the Methuen Charter that empower voters over politicians.

FIRST: The Methuen Charter calls for a deadline to take out nomination papers to run for office. Anyone wishing to run for mayor, city council, or school committee must get a certain number of signatures and has to take nomination papers out by a particular deadline. Once the deadline has passed you cannot seek public office.

Almost every other city in Massachusetts has no deadline to pull out papers only a deadline to turn them in. In Lawrence, for example, anyone wishing to appear on the ballot can take out papers on the day signatures are due to be turned in.

There is no deadline to take out papers.

This allows newcomers to see the landscape of who is running in a race they might be interested in and take out papers the last minute.

Let me be more clear. In Methuen there is a deadline to take out papers and then a month or so later a deadline to turn them in. Insiders and well known politician take out nomination papers to deter lesser known citizens from jumping in the race. Everyone knows that incumbents get re-elected 95% of the time and elections are usually won based on name recognition.

Once the deadline to take out papers has lapsed, someone who took out papers with a well-known name can simply not turn them in, giving the others on the ballot (usually incumbents) a better chance of winning. This happens all the time.

SECOND: THEY CANCEL PRIMARIES

The worst provision in the Methuen Charter is the cancelling of preliminary elections. Insiders say that if there are not enough candidates to eliminate in a primary it's better to save money and not have the election at all.

This kind of political elitism is devastating to democracy.

Case and point: two years ago, there was only one candidate for mayor in Methuen, James Jajuga. Methuen cancelled the primary election because there was only one candidate on the ballot. Since the purpose of a primary election is to allow the top two candidates to move forward to the November ballot, the insiders will tell you there's no need to have one.

But there is.

Had Methuen held a primary election, any citizen disgusted that there was only one candidate on the ballot could get 100 or so people to write their name in on the primary ballot and have a real chance of winning in November.

"But Tom!" the insiders tell me. "They can still run a write in campaign in November!"

Sure they can. But no write-in candidate is ever going to defeat a candidate whose name is already on the November ballot. As far as I know it has never been done.

Canceling primaries only helps incumbents and political insiders. It robs voters of their right to run a write-in or sticker campaign if not enough people turn in nomination papers for a particular office.

And I should know. I served three years on the Lawrence School Committee because three incumbents took out nomination papers, but only two turned them in. Lawrence didn't cancel the primary and as a result I received enough write in votes in that primary to have my name appear on the November ballot. With my name on the ballot in November, I then got enough votes to win a seat on the committee.

That NEVER would have happened if Lawrence cancelled primaries.

It's time for those tinkering with Methuen's charter to eliminate the deadline for taking out nomination papers and stop canceling primaries. But, that will never happen if the voters of Methuen don't demand it. Insiders love these laws.

This year there are 5 candidates running for three seats in the at-large city council race. Six are supposed to be nominated. If Methuen didn't cancel this primary that would mean anyone who wanted to appear on the November ballot could run a write in campaign in the primary and maybe get on the city council.

Unfortunately, the voters of Methuen have been robbed of that opportunity. ◊

Jennifer Kannan Announces Opening of Campaign Office

Jennifer Kannan, announced candidate for Mayor of Methuen, has opened her campaign office at 36 Hampshire St. Methuen.

"With the help of my large and dedicated band of volunteers I am confident that this will be a successful campaign, and I look forward to setting up shop in the heart of downtown." said Kannan.

"When I am not out knocking on doors to meet the residents, I will be found in the campaign office, where I hope people will feel free to drop by to meet me, ask questions, pick up bumper stickers and campaign materials, pitch in and help with all the work that goes into a serious campaign or just cool off from the summer heat."

Jennifer Kannan is a lifelong Methuen resident with a long resume of elected office and community service. She has served for 10 years on the City Council, three years as Chairwoman. She is the mother of three, all of whom live in Methuen, and the wife of 34 years of Bill Kannan, a well-known plumbing contractor in Methuen.

"This is a critical time for Methuen," said Kannan. Now is not the time for on-the-job training. Thanks to actions taken by the City Council, a Fiscal Stability Officer was appointed by the state, and the appointment of a new Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO.) We are now poised for a turnaround in how the city manages its operations. As Mayor, I plan to work closely with the CAFO to institute new policies and practices to ensure that we get on the right track and stay there. "My experience qualifies me to take on the chief executive's role on day one."

Jennifer is proud of the fact that her support comes from many Methuen people, both old-timers and newcomers – not from political factions and special interests. Her focus as a Councilor has always been doing what is best for the city and helping people to get the city services, they need for themselves and their neighborhoods. Many residents have their own stories of how she helped them to navigate City Hall and get the good outcome that they deserve from their government.

"Voting is how we as citizens institute changes and reforms. If we don't participate in elections, we get the government we deserve," said Kannan. "The preliminary election is September 17. This is the first opportunity to decide the field of candidates for the final election on November 5. I hope that all of our residents will exercise this important privilege and get out to vote in the preliminary."

Trail Project Full of Surprises in Dracut

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Have you ever dealt with the Conservation Commission in Dracut? Did the board require staked haybales and siltation fence for your project? Would you be surprised to find out the town didn't comply with that standard requirement or other environmental regulations for its own Beaver Brook trail project?

"Where we got into trouble is that apparently during construction, nobody read the order of conditions, apparently. It's my take," Conservation Commission Chairman James Jendro told the Lowell Sun. "I was quite surprised to hear that there was some clearing much wider than 12 feet. It was my personal understanding that the width of the trail was 12 feet. I assumed that, wherever it went, it was 12 feet and it would be at least 25 feet away from top of the bank."

Surprise! In some areas, up to 45 feet has been cleared in the protected wetland area along Beaver Brook, under the not-so-watchful eye of the Conservation Commission. What's surprising is that Jendro would actually be surprised. Last January, Conservation Commissioner Fred Spicer pointed out that no one appeared to be properly managing the project and called the way the town was handling it "loosey-goosey."

A few months later, the bulldozers rolled into and over what was once pristine woods, wetlands and wildlife habitat. Last month, all work on the project was shut down by Conservation Agent Lori Cahill, based on a complaint filed by my wife that outlined numerous violations of the MA Wetland Protection Act and the Dracut Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

By the way, loosey-goosey is exactly the way the project has been handled by the town. The project was substantially changed after it was approved by a bunch of town boards, including the Community Preservation Committee, the Beaver Brook Farm Committee and the Conservation Commission. Originally, the plan called for a path that would be 6 feet wide with mulched wood chips as the surface. Then, it was increased to a 12-foot wide path with a gravel surface and brought back before the Conservation Commission for a second time.

At that time, Town Engineer Mark Hamel couldn't answer basic questions about the revised plan, including how far the expanded path would be from Beaver Brook or where the center line of the new path was on the plan. Regardless, "the powers that be" get what they want in Dracut. So, naturally, the Conservation Commission approved it anyway, issuing a revised order of conditions for the project.

Among those conditions was the requirement that siltation fence and staked haybales be used in the work area. Surprise! Not a stitch of siltation fence was used and the haybales weren't staked. Recently, some haybales that washed away in a rain storm were replaced and staked, but they are the exception.

One of the other conditions mandated by the Conservation Commission was that the edge of the trail be no closer than 25 feet to the top of the river bank. Surprise! You can add that one to the town manure pile, too. You don't need 20/20 vision to see it's much, much closer, which is convenient considering the Conservation Commission didn't even bother to take a single measurement during a recent visit to the cite.

"I see no devastation to the wetlands," Jendro said afterwards.

Therein may lie the problem: the project has altered more than 12,000 square feet within the 100-foot protected inner riverfront resource area along the brook. Only 5,000 of alteration is allowed under the law – and it's allowed outside the 100-foot wide inner area. Jendro has been on the Conservation Commission for more than 25 years, so the law shouldn't be surprising, either.

Jendro should also take another look at the certified vernal pool on the property. He told the newspaper that it was "missed" by the original biologist who surveyed the area. Surprise! What you can't miss if you walk the area is the trash still in the vernal pool and the destruction all around it, including wetland vegetation and trees that have been removed from the bank.

Anyway, the Conservation Commission has finally called for a project manager to be named. Surprise! And better late than never, considering the Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corps of Engineers and other regulatory agencies will probably be surprised when they take a look at the project, too. In the meantime, someone surprise the Conservation Commission with a tape measure.

– Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ◊

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WHEN EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP MATTER

After years of fiscal turmoil, the city is getting back on track. As Chairwoman of the City Council, I led the effort to address the crisis resulting in the appointment of a Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO,) a municipal finance professional with responsibility for implementing changes in practices and procedures so that the city never finds itself in this situation again.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

With my experience and leadership during a time of crisis, I am prepared to keep the momentum going as Mayor. I will work closely with the CAFO and with the state's Fiscal Stability Officer to institute citywide reforms. As Council Chair, and throughout my life, I have not walked away from any challenge, and as Mayor I will keep the faith with Methuen's residents and taxpayers, who expect strong, experienced leadership.

I respectfully ask for your vote in the Methuen preliminary election on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. If you are not yet registered to vote in Methuen, the last day to register to vote in the preliminary is August 18, 2019.

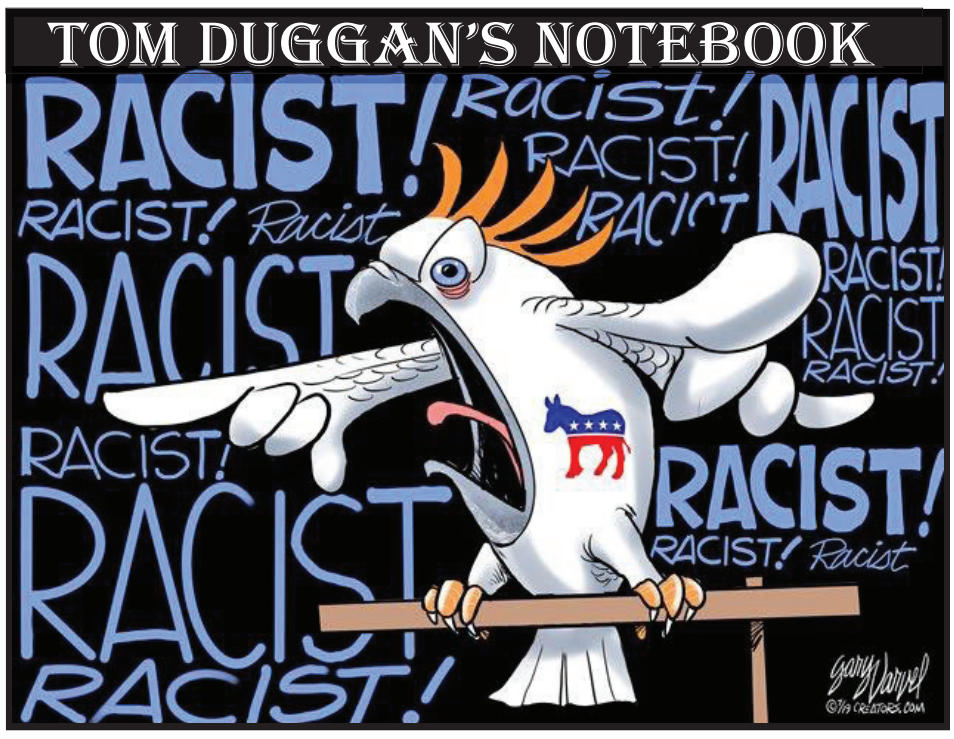
ELECT

Jennifer Aziz

Kannan

MAYOR

Paid for by the Friends of Jennifer Kannan



JAJUGA'S "BUFFOONERY"

Last week Methuen Mayor Jim Jajuga publicly accused Central District Councilor Jim McCarty with a crime, breaking and entering. Jajuga sent out a public email to the council accusing McCarty of breaking into a city hall office, then attacked his integrity and insulted him personally. A full day later, Jajuga sent a three sentence apology to the council but was not man enough to call or go talk to McCarty personally to apologize. It seems Jajuga didn't do his homework before making the accusation, he didn't wait for the facts before lashing out in what McCarty called his consistent "buffoonery". This is kind of odd given that Jajuga is suing this newspaper claiming we didn't do OUR homework and didn't get the facts before making an accusation against HIM. I guess it's do as I say not as I do for the mayor of Methuen.

What's more, Councilor Hamilton admitted at a city council meeting that it was HE who was in that election office and that Mayor Jajuga knew he was there that day. In fact, Hamilton says that he spoke with the mayor and that the mayor was supposed to go with them to that office but didn't because he was busy. This means Jajuga knew that it wasn't McCarty when he attacked him and accused him of "breaking and entering". STAGGERING.

DEMOCRAT PARTY DEBATES SHOW HOW OUT OF TOUCH THEY ARE

Last month the democrat candidates for president attended a debate on the former news channel CNN. Here's what we learned. Every democrat candidate supports free health care for illegal aliens. At a time when we have hundreds of thousands of homeless American citizens, it was bizarre to see people who are supposed to represent US, shilling for public dollars going to citizens of other countries. There are countless Americans going bankrupt because of medical bills, yet the power brokers in the Democrat Party only seem to care about providing assistance to people who are not even supposed to be here. It's clear that the Democrat Party has abandoned American citizens, it was just staggering that they were so open about it.

IS TULSI GABBARD A RUSSIAN SPY?

Democrat candidate for President Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii congressman, came out the big winner of the democrat debates last month. But, within hours of her blockbuster performance, operatives in the Democrat Party began to label her a spy for RUSSIA and an apologist for Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. You see, this is the playbook in democrat politics. Whenever someone starts to threaten the establishment democrats in D.C. the smear machines go into overdrive to conduct character assassinations. Gabbard is an American hero. She served several tours in Iraq, she is still enlisted in the national guard, and went to meet with Syria's Assad to try and find a way to prevent more war in that area. She's a dove and is against war, as she says, given the human toll she saw during the war in Iraq. Yet, the soulless liars who run the Democrat Party at the national level had no problem questioning her patriotism and spreading lies about her. They tried this with Donald Trump too. In fact, they have tried it with a lot of people who threaten their power and their political narrative from Senate President Mitch McConnell to the president's son. The American people are on to the democrats now, and their brand of McCarthyism is starting to backfire.

ARTHUR HARDY AND WHY YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE

Methuen Police Officer Arthur Hardy is running for Methuen City Council At-Large. For sure he has some very passionate supporters and detractors. Last month, I posted on The Valley Patriot news item on Facebook stating "Hero Methuen Police officer Arthur Hardy to run for City Council at Large in Methuen." Within minutes, I got calls and emails insulting me for calling him a "hero police officer" detailing some of the reasons he was recently suspended, and accusing me of supporting him because he's a cop and - of course - I don't think any cop can ever do anything wrong.

I tried to remind the critics that whatever you think of Hardy he is INDEED a hero police officer who has saved lives and that his beef with the police department should have no bearing on his candidacy. I also complained loudly on Facebook that the Eagle Tribune did a hatchet piece on Hardy when they learned that he was running for office. Again I was attacked as a "supporter" and "apologist" for Hardy.

THEN... a few days later, Hardy decided to make his official campaign announcement on the podcast of a local criminal named Debo Brown (his real name is Donald Frazer). A man who took part in a car insurance fraud scam that cost a woman her life. The criminal, (who now portrays himself as a community advocate) went to jail because... in his words ... he "refused to dime out" the other criminals involved (criminals often use criminal language, that's a good way to identify them).

When I took to Facebook to point out that Hardy made his announcement on the podcast of a criminal and how this was not a good idea for a cop on suspension, again my phone began to ring and the emails started coming in. This time they were insulting me and accusing me "picking on Arthur". They further accused me of "attacking" him because I had some personal beef against him. I don't. But, it does go to show that no matter what you say about anyone today, there are always going to be people accusing you of having some ulterior motive. If you are in the media business you are in a no-win situation no matter what you write. The fact is, I don't know Hardy well, and I don't have any feelings on his candidacy one way or the other. If he does or says something important or newsworthy I will report on it even if it makes him look good. If he does something monumentally stupid I will call that out too. I say, instead of all this behind the scenes bull crap, people should judge Hardy's candidacy based on his ideas and what he can do for the residents of Methuen. He could turn out to be a great councilor. He could also turn out to be a total disaster. That's why it's important to talk to the candidates and decide for yourselves.

THIS IS WHY LAWRENCE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

Less than 24 hours after Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera unveiled the renovations of Sullivan Park in south Lawrence someone sprayed graffiti on the tennis courts. Lawrence residents took to social media to complain saying; "this is why we can't have nice things." INDEED! In the past few years Lawrence has built or renovated a number of parks, one of which is on Manchester Street where two people were killed in two separate incidents just this year.

DONATE TO TMF FAMILY DINNERS FOR THE HOMELESS

Each Wednesday night The Movement Family (TMF) holds a family dinner for the homeless at 2 South Broadway in Lawrence. TMF is a group of Lawrence teenagers who supply a family style meal for the homeless. Homeless who attend the dinner have the option to talk to someone from Tewksbury Detox, Veterans Northeast Outreach, The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and other organizations to assist any homeless person who needs help. TMF is always looking for food and clothing donations. If you are interested in donating please email me at valleypatriot@aol.com.

INTERLOCK DEVICES FOR DRUNK DRIVERS

State Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of Senate Bill 2137, "An Act Relative To Strengthening Public Safety Through Interlock Devices," issued the following statement regarding pending legislation to allow first-time convicted drunk drivers to use ignition interlock devices:

"Now is the time to authorize the use of interlock devices for first-time OUI offenders. We have already waited too long to authorize this important tool which can prevent tragedy on our state's roadways. While we can no longer avoid being the last state in the nation to adopt this smart approach to public safety, we still have an obligation to take action now so that we can stem the pain and harm from the senseless loss of life at the hands of a drunk driver that could have been prevented with time-tested and road tested technology.

Federal government data shows that interlocks reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent. I urge the Joint Committee on Transportation to move in the right direction with legislation that is before them."

NOTE: Tarr's legislation would allow, but not require, first-time offenders to use interlock devices. Massachusetts is the only state in the country that does not allow the use of interlocks for first offenders.

·Massachusetts requires interlocks for all repeat offenders. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 2016 and 2018 studies found that states with first-time offender ignition interlock laws saw drunk driving deaths decrease by 15 and 16 percent.

·Over the past dozen years, interlocks have prevented over 39,000 attempts to drive drunk in Massachusetts.

5K WALK IN LOWELL

The Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites walkers to complete a 5 km or 10 km (3.1 or 6.2 mile) route in Lowell, Mass. This is a walk-at-your-own pace, just-for-fun event "in your own backyard." This event is being hosted by the Lowell National Historical Park. For more information on Lowell National Historical Park, please visit www.nps.gov/lowell."

The start point is the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St.,(for GPS, use 304 Dutton St.) Lowell, Mass 01852. Registration for the 5km and 10 km is 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This walk is free to the public and donations are accepted. Fee for those participating in the AVA/IVV achievement program is $3.00.

The 5km and 10km walks start together traveling past restored 19th century mill buildings, power canals, brick and stone gatehouses and lock chambers, the historic commercial center of downtown Lowell, and the Riverwalk along the Merrimack River. The 10km walk also includes a stretch through part of the campus of UMass Lowell, an assortment of city parks, Lowell's historic Acre neighborhood, and a view of the Pawtucket Falls. Both walks travel past St. Anne's Church and the Kirk Street Agent's House, both of which are associated with the Underground Railway.

The 5km and 10km routes are mostly

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on paved surfaces, with a few sections on well-graded, wide, unpaved dirt pathways, with some gentle to moderate hills throughout both walks. Conditions are doable for strollers but only the 5km is suitable for wheelchairs. Leashed pets are welcome on the trail and clean-up laws apply.

Volkssporting events sponsored by Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club promote fun, fitness and friendship through non-competitive walking and biking free to the public. There is also an achievement awards program through the American Volkssport Association (AVA). For further information contact David at 978-970-5028, david_byers@nps.gov or www.walknmass.org.

LAWRENCE FAÇADE PROGRAM LAUNCHED DOWNTOWN

The City of Lawrence, Lawrence Partnership, and Lawrence Redevelopment Authority are offering matching grant funds for downtown revitalization efforts in the TDI district with its new program Lawrence Local Lift. The program offers façade improvement awards and design assistance for downtown buildings. The program is designed as a 50/50 match-grant to successful awardees ranging from $5,000 to $15,000. In addition to financial support, grantees will have the option to utilize architectural assistance from CUBE 3 Studio, a local architecture and planning firm, based out of the Riverwalk campus in Lawrence.

Derek Mitchell, Executive Director of the Lawrence Partnership says, "The continued investment in Lawrence's downtown is having a tangible impact that is shining a bright light on the beautiful architecture in the city, which was the commercial hub for the region for so many years. This new layer of investment will propel that process forward even more quickly, with visible impact."

Lawrence Local Lift is generously funded by the Essex County Community Foundation and Mass Development. The program aims to leverage public dollars to further incentivize private investment and revitalization activity. Lawrence Local Lift can be used to repair building facades, update signage, add lighting features, and any additional elements that help to beautify downtown properties.

Lawrence Redevelopment Authority chair and local business owner, Evan Silverio, says, "The Local Lift program could not have come at a more opportune time in Lawrence's history. Investments by the private, public and non-profit sectors have been strong, coordinated, and relentless. The spirits of the residents and the business owners are at an all-time high and we must take advantage of all the tools given to us to continue the momentum."

The Lawrence Redevelopment Authority will be accepting applications from property owners through Friday, August 16, 2019. To learn more about the program and apply visit lawrencepartnership.com/locallift. Interested applicants are encouraged to reach out to Jess Martinez, Transformative Development Initiative Fellow, at jmartinez@massdevelopment.com or 857-295-9966 for further information.

MARKEY GETS PIPELINE SAFETY ACT PASSED

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) today applauded the inclusion of his Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act in final committee passage of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) reauthorization bill (S.2299). Senator Markey, a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, promised the Rondon family that he would work to honor the memory of Leonel Rondon, who died as a result of the September 13, 2018 Merrimack Valley Natural gas pipeline explosions and fires. Senator Markey's provisions, from his original legislation introduced with Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and led by Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) in the House of Representatives, respond to gaps uncovered during his investigation with Senator Warren into the deadly disaster.

Specifically, Senator Markey's provisions that are included in the PHMSA reauthorization package include:

Improve emergency response coordination with the public and first responders, ensuring information is shared and residents are not left in the dark

Require the use of qualified employees, such as professional engineers, to approve gas engineering plans or significant changes to the system

Promote best industry practices for holistic safety management

Mandate on-site monitoring of gas system pressure by qualified employees during construction so that a dangerous situation can be stopped before it happens

Require regulator stations – which are critical to preventing over-pressurizations – to be configured in such a way so that there are technological redundancies that can keep disasters from taking place

Ensure there are written procedures for responding to over-pressurization and managing changes to the pipeline system, the cause of the Merrimack Valley disaster, including maintenance of accurate, traceable, and reliable maps and records of the pipeline system.

On November 26, 2018, Senator Markey hosted a Senate Commerce Committee field hearing in Lawrence with Senator Warren, Senator Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), then-Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA-03), Congressman Seth Moulton (MA-06), and Congresswoman Trahan on the September 13th natural gas pipeline explosions and fires that killed Leonel Rondon, injured more than two dozen, and damaged more than 100 structures.

TEEN SUMMER ART CLASS
Taught by Claire Gagnon
Whistler House Museum of Art
August 13th and 14th, 2019
9am - 12pm

In this two day art program for teenagers age 15 to 17, students will be guided to develop their creativity through fun exercises. Focus will be on drawing and

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 16

Javy Colon of "Blessings to Go" (the old Lucky's Pizza) on Haverhill Street in Lawrence donates 6 pizzas every week to the TMF Family dinner for the homeless. THANK JAVY for his generosity by dropping in and ordering pizza or subs. He's located at 480Haverhill St.

Moulton Bill to Protect Consumers from Eavesdropping Digital Assistants in Speakers, Doorbells

Automatic Listening Exploitation Act would create recourse for consumers when smart speakers and doorbells make recordings in violation of the technology's user agreements

WASHINGTON - Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA) will introduce the Automatic Listening Exploitation Act. The bill would create recourse for consumers when the manufacturers of smart speakers with personal assistants and smart doorbells collect private conversations and data in violation of their terms of agreements.

"Smart speakers and doorbells are great, but consumers should have a way to fight back when tech companies collect more data than Americans have agreed to give up," Moulton said. "More broadly, Congress should give Americans a bigger say in the data that companies collect. It's time for a next generation of digital privacy laws, and it can start by holding corporations to their own privacy commitments."

The Automatic Listening Exploitation Act of 2019 would allow the Federal Trade Commission, one of the government agencies tasked with protecting consumer data privacy, to seek penalties when digital personal assistants and smart doorbells record private conversations of users who haven't said the device's wake word or phrase or activated the doorbell. The penalties would total up to $40,000 per infraction at the federal level. The bill also allows consumers to require the deletion of any recording or transcript of sound captured by a smart speaker or video or image captured by a video doorbell's camera.

The fine per incident would add up for companies that break the user agreements with their customers.

NPR and the Edison Institute released a study on smart speaker ownership data on June 25. The group found 51 million Americans own a smart speaker, about one in four Americans, and that 14 million of those Americans purchased a smart speaker in the last year. Half of users say they trust the manufacturers of the speakers to protect their data, and more than half are worried about their speakers being hacked.

The Verge reported in January that first-to-market Amazon is estimated to have sold more than 100 million devices, including the Echo and Dot which feature Amazon's digital assistant, Alexa. Apple sold 86.2 million of its Siri-enabled Homepods by the end of 2018,

and according to RBC Capital Markets, Google Home sales created $3.4 billion in revenue and will climb to $8.2 billion by 2021.

According to a Bloomberg report in April, Amazon "employs thousands of people around the world"–including in Boston–who listen and transcribe recordings of what people tell their devices so that they can make improvements to the technology.

Amazon's recordings that are taken after a user says the wakeword is well within the terms of agreements users accept when they activate the products. But, a separate report by The Intercept found Ring has "a history of lax, sloppy oversight when it comes to deciding who has access to some of the most precious, intimate data belonging to any person: a live, high-definition feed from around — and perhaps inside — their house."

According to that report, Ring provided its Ukraine-based research and development team "virtually unfettered access to a folder on Amazon's S3 cloud storage service that contained every video created by every ring camera around the world."

The Moulton bill would penalize companies when data is used outside of the terms of agreement, which appears to have happened at Ring.

The bill comes as Americans debate who should be responsible for enforcing the terms of the user agreements between technology companies and American consumers, and whether consumers should have collective recourse when companies use or share their data without permission.

Facebook, for example, recently incurred the wrath of the Federal Trade

MOULTEN: PAGE 17

Muslim Terrorist supporter who hates America vs. TUCKER!

I know whose side I'M ON!

YOu see OMAR we don't have SHARIA LAW here in AMERICA we don't destroy people for having views YOU Don't approve of... if that's the life you want then go to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan or any of the other 24 Muslim run countries where they kill people for saying things YOU don't like.

WESTERNJOURNAL.COM | BY SHAUN HAIR

Spiteful Ilhan Omar Not Content Calling Tucker Racist, Wants Him Broke and Out of a Job

Defending America's Right of Free Speech Over Sharia Law is No Longer Allowed on Facebook

As a free speech advocate and a newspaper publisher of more than 15 years I was horrified to learn that Facebook now sides with Sharia Law over the free speech values of the United States. After all, it was those very free speech rights that made Facebook what it is today, a multi-Billion dollar corporation.

Sharia Law is the religious law in all 24 Muslim run countries in the world. Gays are castrated, those who speak out against Sharia are tortured and killed, Jews and Christians are non-existent as they have been killed or driven out of those countries, and women have no rights at all.

There is no question that extremist Muslims have infiltrated our country and in fact our government. How many and who they are, is almost impossible to know. What we do know is that Congressman Illan Omar (herself a radical Muslim) has advocated silencing people and destroying their lives whenever they challenge her ideas or claims. She has defended Muslim terrorists, and minimized the 911 Muslim terrorist attacks against our nation.

She does this, all the while she gets immunity from any criticism claiming all dissent of her actions and ideas are rooted in anti-Islamic bigotry.

Last month, I posted a story about how the Sharia Law loving congressman Illan Omar was trying to silence Tucker Carlson of FoxNews for daring to criticize her.

She not only wants him silenced she wants him destroyed. She said so herself.

Yet, when I expressed my opinion on Facebook that I stand with free speech, and that this country was not subject to the fascist Sharia laws of EVERY Muslim run country in the world - the executives at Facebook stepped in to say ... not so fast.

I wasn't attacking her "religion". I was clearly attacking the extreme views and actions of trying to bring Sharia to the U.S. We know that not all Muslims subscribe to this tyranny, but those who do need to be called out without fear of being censored on-line or attacked as a bigot.

No matter, the posting above got me another 30 day suspension from Facebook, as defending free speech against Sharia Law is no longer allowed in the People's Republic of Facebook.

I've been sounding the alarm on this kind of tech tyranny for three years now. Our lawmakers, however, don't seem to be listening. Facebook is not a benevolent platform where people can express their views anymore. Facebook is a multi-billion corporate information system that imposes its views on others and punishes those who disagree.

The government is no longer the greatest threat to our freedoms, Silicon Valley is. ◊

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Mike Gagliardi

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

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Balanced State Budget Includes Major Increase in Education Funding

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The State Legislature approved a $43.1 billion budget for the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2019. The balanced budget, which Governor Charlie Baker approved without any spending vetoes, greatly increases funding for education, continues to address the opioid epidemic and the critical need for more affordable housing, and builds up the state's reserves.

The budget increases Unrestricted General Government Aid to cities and towns by approximately $30 million over last year's appropriation. For state aid to public K-12 schools, the Legislature allocates $5.18 billion, an increase of $268 million over last year's funding – the largest year-over-year increase in the last 20 years. The University of Massachusetts system will receive an increase of $39 million, and UMass officials will be required to meet with lawmakers by January 15, 2020 to outline in detail their costs, spending plan, and efforts to reduce tuition and fees.

The budget also allocates $475 million for the state's "rainy day" fund, bringing the total to over $3 billion. This is a critical part of this year's budget, as experts say we should be prepared for recession-like indicators given historic data and cyclical economic trends.

Other highlights include $50 million to support nursing homes, the establishment of a task force to address challenges facing the nursing home industry, and a policy to allow the state to negotiate drug prices with drug manufacturers and hold public hearings on drug pricing. This policy will bring more transparency and accountability to lower the costs of prescription drugs.

I filed the following local earmarks that were adopted by my colleagues;

- $300,000 for the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in Haverhill
- $200,000 to replace the Methuen High School Track
- $50,000 to improve mental health services at Methuen High School
- $50,000 for the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
- $250,000 for Haverhill's Hale Hospital debt
- $1.2 million for a young adult recidivism reduction program piloted by UTEC in Lawrence and Lowell, with plans to expand to Haverhill

I also filed amendments for several statewide programs that received funding, including elder nutrition services like Meals on Wheels ($9.7 million); the Civics Project Trust Fund, which supports the state's new civics education requirements ($1.5 million); Veterans' mental health services through Home Base ($1.3 million); and school bridge programs, which help students transition back to school after long health-related absences ($350,000).

One of my additional statewide priorities was funding for first responders, specifically to help cities and towns purchase the overdose-reversing drug Narcan as well as washing machines for firefighting equipment to lower cancer rates among firefighters. The budget includes $500,000 and $420,000, respectively, for these purposes.

As House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, I assisted with portions of the budget related to Veterans' services. In total, the budget allocates over $147 million for programs administered by the state's Department of Veterans' Services and two Soldiers' Homes. This total represents increased funding for a number of key services compared to last year's budget, including an additional $332,000 for services to homeless Veterans and a boost of $1.5 million for Veterans' social services and outreach. The Massachusetts National Guard will receive an increase of $1.1 million over last year.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◊

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Legislation to Prevent Another Columbia Gas Disaster

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

The devastating events of September 18, 2018, which destroyed homes and buildings in communities in North Andover, Lawrence and Andover will be long remembered.

With negligible assistance from the Columbia Gas, residents turned to social media for help and called daily for relief from my office. Not only was restoration of service slow but communication to those affected was erratic, with conflicting information about which streets would be repaired and when.

People stayed home from work while waiting on the phone and in person for assistance, often being passed from one adjuster to another. They waited weeks for reimbursement - which often did not cover all of their costs. Many lost more than several days' pay to keep appointments with adjusters, who often never showed up as scheduled.

Countless residents were relocated to hotels far from their homes and work. Due to poor communication between those hotels and the local gas company, some of those people were actually turned away from promised rooms. Those permitted to stay had hours added to commuting time.

In a deeply disheartening twist, our most vulnerable populations, seniors and the developmentally disabled – who should have received priority care and utmost attention – were forced to rely on local elected officials to assist them as their calls to the local gas company went nowhere.

People went from adjuster to adjuster getting less than they were promised – and far less than they deserved. They felt small and powerless against a big company that minimized their very real struggles.

It is imperative that we, their representatives, work hard to protect them.

That is why I filed legislation, Senate Bill 1952, which increases the reporting requirements of gas companies when they learn of gas leaks to local fire and law enforcement agencies and to make information about gas leaks public, both on the gas company's and the Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) websites.

The legislation mandates that all three entities – the gas company, local law enforcement and the local fire department - record the location of the leak and any mitigation done to resolve the issue. The bill also requires that gas companies remain responsible for any significant project on a public way and authorizes financial penalties for failure to comply with any provision.

Furthermore, my bill requires an annual review by DPU pertaining to certified pipeline inspectors to ensure that an adequate number of certified inspectors are engaged in pipeline inspection across the Commonwealth.

As those affected continue to rebuild their lives nearly one year since the Columbia Gas explosions, this legislation will provide key tools to both hold gas companies accountable and prevent future incidents.

If you would like additional information on this or any other bill I am working on in this session, please contact me via e-mail at Diana.DiZoglio@masenate.gov or by phone at (617) 722-1604 anytime.

Yours in service,
Diana ◊

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Rep. Moran Secures $1M For Pet Projects

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence, Andover and Methuen) has secured $950,000 through budget amendments filed to the fiscal year 2020 budget signed by Governor Baker on Wednesday. Chairman Moran's amendments were consolidated earlier this year in the categories of Public Safety, Labor and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Elder Affairs, Education and Local Aid, as well as Constitutional Officers and State Administration.

Funded at $43.3 billion, the final FY20 budget makes major investments in education through an increase of over $300 million in Chapter 70 education funding; including a $13 million increase for Lawrence, $1 for Andover, and $2.5 million for Methuen schools. Unrestricted local aid also increased by $750,000 across the 17th Essex District.

"The budget process is an annual opportunity to make our priorities for the 17th Essex District of Lawrence, Andover, and Methuen known. I am humbled to once again take on this responsibility on behalf of our community, and I am thrilled to deliver once again for my constituents. The process of gathering all of the relevant information and advocating for this state funding for organizations across our community here at the State House is one I take great pride in, and I can't wait to see all of the growth and development in our community because of this funding. Thank you to my Lawrence, Andover, and Methuen colleagues, Speaker DeLeo, Ways and Means Chairperson Aaron Michlewitz, and all of our colleagues in the Senate for their tireless work on this budget process," said Chairman Moran.

Budget amendments filed by Representative Moran will go to support:

* the rehabilitation of the Andover Senior Center ($150,000);

* planning grants to expand or develop new career and technical education programs for vocational technical schools across the Commonwealth ($500,000);

* community development initiatives at ACT Lawrence ($50,000);

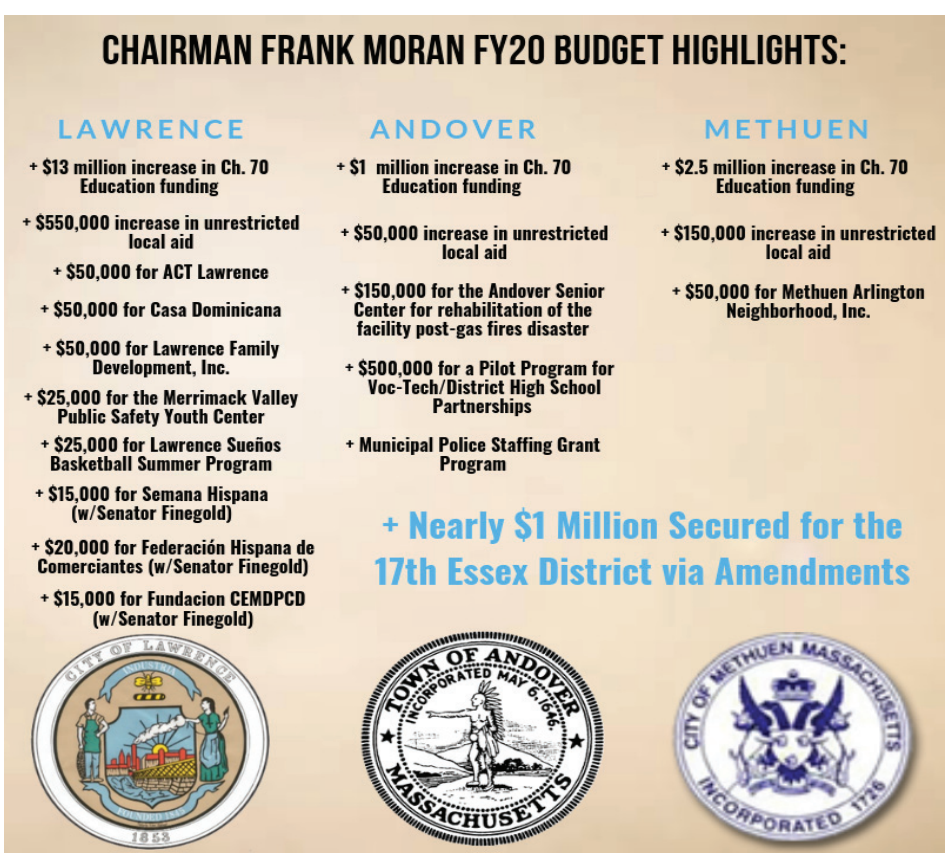
* Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc ($50,000);

* Lawrence Family Development ($50,000);

* Federación Hispana de Comerciantes - with Senator Barry Finegold ($20,000);

* Semana Hispana - with Senator Barry Finegold ($20,000); and

* Casa Dominicana ($50,000).



DiZoglio Fighting to Reinstate Merrimack River Commission

(BOSTON) – In the Fiscal Year 2020 Senate Budget, State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) passed legislation to create a Merrimack River District Commission, an inclusive commission of local stakeholders — from sewage management professionals to environmentalists to elected officials — as well as representatives from state agencies, to assess the current health of the Merrimack and to map out strategies to ensure the health and safety of the river going forward.

Though unanimously passed by the Senate, language to establish the Commission was eliminated after budget negotiations began with the House on the final Conference Committee Report – despite the inclusion in the final report of $50,000 to fund it.

Now, DiZoglio, alongside fellow senators from the Merrimack Valley, is fighting to have the Commission reinstated. She, alongside State Senators Edward J. Kennedy (D-Lowell), Barry R. Finegold (D-Andover), Bruce E. Tarr (R-Gloucester) and James B. Eldridge (D-Acton), penned a joint letter to State Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, requesting that the legislation be moved to the Senate floor for consideration as soon as possible.

"This commission has been a priority of mine since the start of this legislative session, as I work to bring together stakeholders from all along the Merrimack to address issues around pollution, including discharge from combined sewer overflows (CSOs)," said DiZoglio. "We have never convened a diverse group of experts from various sectors to work together, agree on the basic facts, and advise the legislature on how to proceed to restore our beloved river so that it may be here for future generations to explore and enjoy."

In June, DiZoglio, alongside the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, hosted a kick-off of the Merrimack River District Commission that was attended by more than 50 local stakeholders, environmentalists and experts, including the Army Corps of Engineers.

"While this group will be funded, it is imperative that the Commission be established at the state level, as this will formalize the process, requiring that a report be delivered back to the legislature on the Commission's findings regarding the health of the Merrimack," said DiZoglio. "This report will help our region identify both short- and long-term solutions."

"Recent reports have illustrated in stark terms that combined sewer overflows caused by outdated infrastructure pose a pervasive and reoccurring threat to the health of the Merrimack River," said Kennedy. "The establishment of a Merrimack River District Commission would bring together stakeholders in communities that the river flows through to determine solutions to this issue and to preserve this vital natural resource into the future."

"I applaud Senator DiZoglio for making the Commission a top priority, and I share her desire to see it reinstated," said Finegold. "Since taking office in January, I've heard from dozens of constituents who are concerned about the river's health and the impact it has on our community. We need the Commission so that we can bring all the organizations, advocates, and experts together and make the best decisions for the Merrimack River in the years to come."

"The discharge of pollution is a serious concern made even more so when it is dumped directly into one of New England's largest public drinking water sources – the Merrimack," said Tarr. "This commission could bring key stakeholders and resources together to effectively mitigate the impacts from exposure to contaminants, and improve our economy and quality of life."

While the establishment of the Commission was not included in the final Conference Committee Report, the final budget did include an amendment sponsored by DiZoglio for $100,000 toward a pilot program to notify swimmers and boaters of CSOs in the Merrimack. The program will utilize physical and virtual means to notify residents of potential CSO concerns, in the form of flagging and through a mobile app and website alerts.

Donald Campbell (a Retired Army LTC) and State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell (herself a veteran) had the opportunity to join veterans and those who support Home Base to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Home Base on the field at Fenway Park. Home Base is the best in the nation organization here in Boston that collaborates with MA General Hospital to treat Veterans suffering from PTSD. The Red Sox Foundation gives generously to this proven program. I was proud to sponsor a budget amendment on their behalf, and the Legislature provided this great program 1.3 million dollars to expand treatment for Veterans with PTSD. To find out more about Home Base go to www.homebase.org.

Roberto's Seafood sells fresh seafood at the North Andover Farmer's Market on First and Main Street every Sunday from 10-2pm. The Farmer's Market is sponsored by the North Andover Downtown Merchants Association.

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Mike Gorman, founder of The Movement Family (TMF) sporting his Valley Patriot T-Shirt. Gorman and the kids of TMF feed the homeless every Wednesday night from 8-10pm at 2 South Broadway in Lawrence. To donate food or clothing you can email valleypatriot@aol.com.

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Century 21

Ziyah of Lawrence won the Valley Patriot Jay Gee's Ice Cream Contest when she submitted the cutest photos of her eating ice cream and promoting Jay Gee's, 602 Lowell St., in Methuen.

If you believe Methuen needs a fresh start, take a close look at Neil Perry.

A Lifelong Resident – Neil Perry was born in Methuen, began his career as a Methuen teacher, raised his four children in Methuen, and has a long history of volunteering his time to the community. He never expected to run for office. In fact, he hasn't participated in most local elections preferring community action to politics. **He's running because he's heartbroken that personal agenda, conflicts of interest, and negativity have left our city struggling and many of our neighbors angry.**

Prepared to Lead – Neil achieved a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from UMass Lowell. Neil later earned a Master of Business Administration Degree *(with a concentration in Accounting)* from Southern New Hampshire University. He also served as an adjunct professor of accounting at Northern Essex Community College. **At a time when Methuen's financial sustainability has been jeopardized by reckless contracting and overspending, it's critical to choose a leader who's highly qualified by training and experience to put our house in order. And, as an educator by training, he's uniquely qualitied to actively serve as Chair of the School Committee.**

Experienced Executive – At Raytheon, Neil serves as Director of Supply Chain Operations and Business Transformation. His team includes over 10,000 suppliers across the globe and his responsibilities include successfully negotiating and managing multi-billion-dollar contracts. **Neil intends to restore public confidence in our city government. He'll insist on the highest standard of conduct among city employees and will actively negotiate fair, affordable, and transparent contracts for city employees and critical municipal services.**

Neil Perry. The most qualified candidate to be Methuen's Mayor.

Neil PERRY For Methuen

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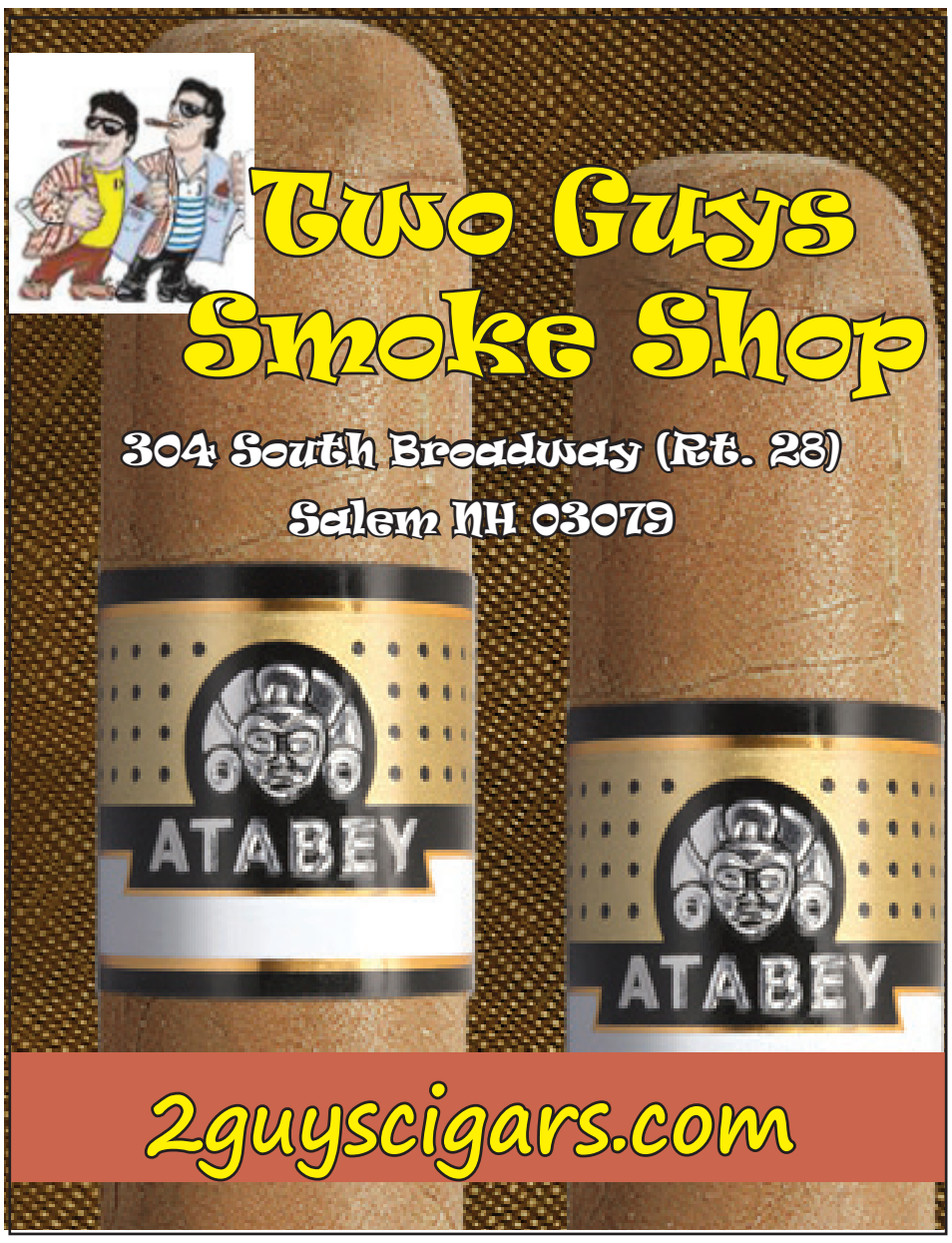


Red Sox Invite North Andover High Students to Spend Summer at Fenway Park Through Student 9's Program

BOSTON, MA – For less than the cost of a movie ticket, North Andover High School students can enjoy the magic of Boston Red Sox baseball at Fenway Park this summer. The Red Sox are offering young fans affordable tickets to games through the team's Student 9's program, which provides high school and college students the opportunity to purchase $9 tickets with a valid student ID at every home game.

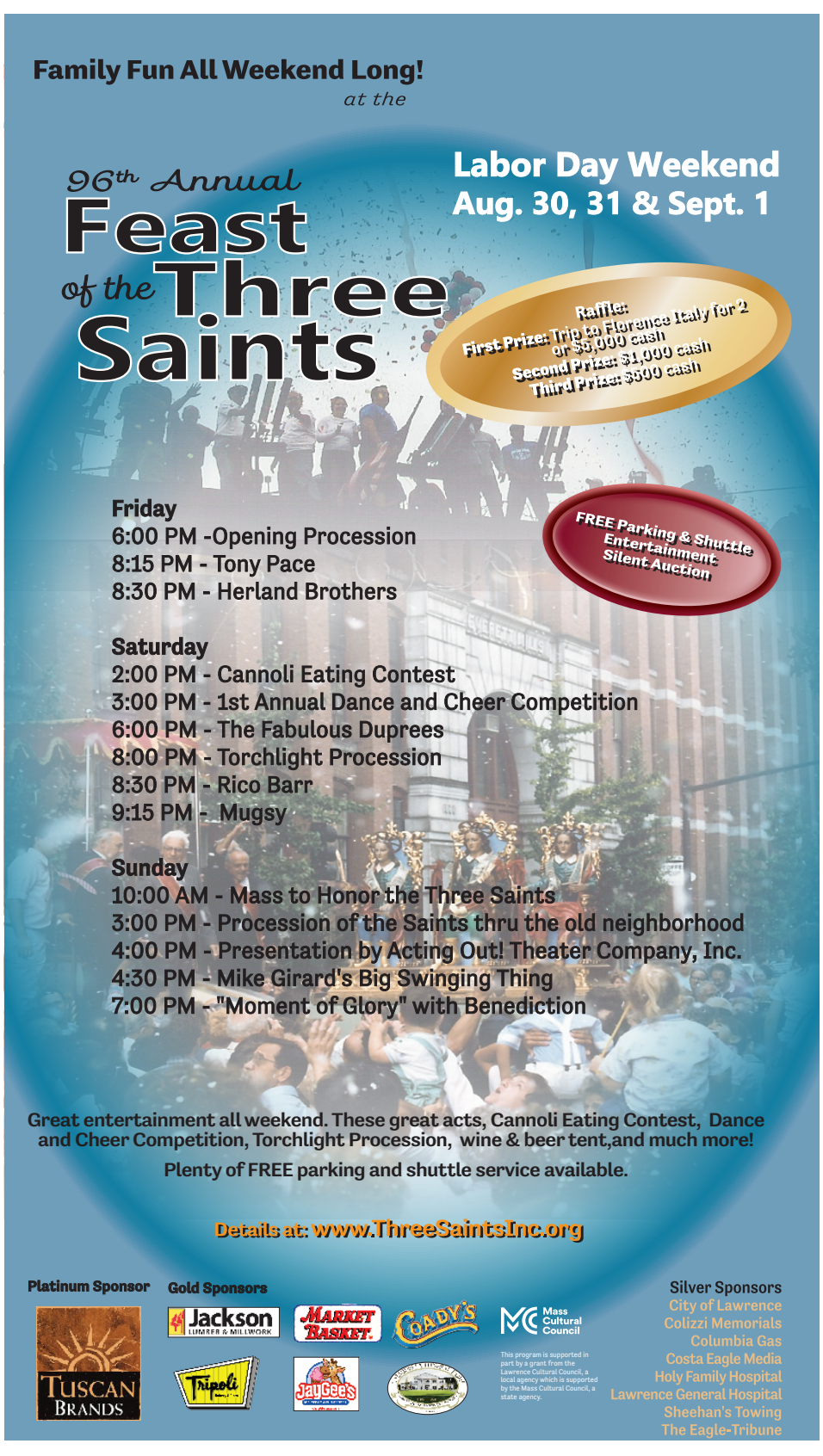
"We continuously look to provide greater access to Fenway Park for young fans, and our Student 9's program offers both native and visiting students from around the New England the opportunity to share in the exhilaration of attending a Red Sox game within a student's budget," said Red Sox President and CEO Sam Kennedy. "Students can come to a game at Fenway Park for less than the price of a movie ticket with minimal advance planning. By offering the student community the lowest priced tickets at the ballpark, we hope to instill our love for the sport and memorable experiences for this next generation of Red Sox fans."

Student 9's are the lowest priced tickets at Fenway Park and provide access with guaranteed standing room tickets and the potential for an upgrade pending availability. As a member of the program, students can also enjoy invitations to exclusive student events including a post-game "Deck Party" atop the Sam Deck, complete with music, re-opened concessions and more.

High school and collegiate fans can register to receive student offers by visiting redsox.com/student or text 'students' to the Red Sox at 23215 to sign up for alerts at any time.

Student tickets will be delivered to mobile devices or available through the MLB Ballpark App. Students can scan their ticket directly from their phone when they arrive at the ballpark gates and are asked to bring their student ID for verification to gain entry.

The Student 9's program is a part of the Red Sox Fan & Youth initiative which aims to provide greater access to Red Sox games, enhance kids experiences at Fenway Park, and celebrate and strengthen the game of baseball in the community. For the full details on the Student 9's program, please visit redsox.com/student.



Methuen School Committeeman Nick DiZoglio Concealed School Spending Problems

DiNatale and DiZoglio Spar on Facebook After Revelations That DiZoglio Knew About Misspending in the Schools

Last month, we learned at an open meeting that whistleblower Ian Gosselin - the business manager of the Methuen Public Schools - told School Committee member Nick DiZoglio in early 2018 that school finances were out of whack and that the budget numbers were fake. DiZoglio didn't inform the public as is his duty, and he stood next to then Superintendent Judy Scannell, saying nothing when she lied to the committee and then again when she lied to the city council. He did, however, tell Mayor Jajuga and outed whistleblower Ian Gosselin to the mayor.

AFTER BEING TOLD NICK WAS SILENT

On February 12, 2018 the Methuen School Committee held a financial discussion at the end of a 2 hour meeting.

Committeeman Nick DiZoglio asked no questions about finances despite having been informed of serious concerns by Ian Gosselin!

In fact, when the topic of monthly financials came up, it almost slipped by as the mayor went through the paperwork and neither the mayor nor Nick DiZoglio asked any questions.

This is very troubling knowing that Ian Gosselin had just come to them with concerns.

When School Committeeman Jana DiNatale requested to back up the conversation and started asking questions about the school's deficit, again Nick DiZoglio said nothing and in fact, eventually got up and left the meeting without explanation.

At no point during the meeting did DiZoglio inform the committee of the serious concerns he had been told about. When DiNatale raised the issue DiZoglio didn't share the concerns or confront Judy Scannell about what he knew were misrepresentations or outright lies.

DiZoglio's silence deprived the committee of stopping misconduct and illegal spending at that point; with his silence he allowed it to continue for months.

Months where the school committee could have done an investigation and stopped the excessive and illegal spending. He could have saved the city all the heartache and turmoil if the committee had just been told.

On March 12, 2018 a budget discussion took place where - again - Nick had nothing to say about the illegal spending and the lies being told by Judy Scannell.

In fact, about 32 minutes into the meeting DiZoglio blames the budget deficit on "Special Education mandates", despite the fact that Gosselin told him about deceitful practices that were putting the district in jeopardy.

DiZoglio then says "I'm not blaming this on the Superintendent".

This is a shocking and dishonest statement now that we have learned how Gosselin had just told him about misspending.

By the time we get to the meeting where the entire committee knows that Judy Scannell has been lying about having her certifications, School Committeeman Jana Zanni Pesche and Jana DiNatale both advocated for termination of the Superintendent. Nick DiZoglio did not.

The fact is, Judy Scannell was overspending by hiring staff that the city couldn't afford, all the while she was lying to the city council and the public claiming there was no budget shortfall and that she had a plan to bridge the gap.

DINATALE CALLS OUT DIZOGLIO ON FACEBOOK

School Business Manager Ian Gosselin tried to blow the whistle and save the district. He did what he was supposed to do. He informed a member of the school committee, risking retaliation from the political insiders. Nick DiZoglio and Mayor Jajuga did not do what they were supposed to do. They hid that information from the committee and the public. They continued protecting Scannell for months, including voting against her termination and hiding her actions and information until Gosselin revealed it just last month.

It took 18 months to find out what Judy Scannell was up to thanks to the silence of Nick DiZoglio and Jim Jajuga. Even during the discussion about her termination, which both Jajuga and DiZoglio refused to support.

As if all this wasn't bad enough, after Gosselin brought to light the fact that he

told DiZoglio about Scannell's misspending, Jana DiNatale called DiZoglio out on Facebook. This touched off a back and forth between the two school committee members where DiZoglio seems to try and deflect his culpability.

"Nicholas DiZoglio, there is no way you can turn this wrong into a right," DiNatale posted.

"There is no twisting this utter lack of transparency and breach of duty into anything that looks like good governing."

"You never shared the business managers concerns with the committee and it was your duty to do that. You never shared the concerns at the next meeting or any [meeting] thereafter - and I know

SCHOOLS: PAGE 21

METHUEN: FROM PAGE 2

significantly increasing Latinx civic engagement and representation in leadership across sectors, founded by Attorney Betty Francisco and Attorney Eneida Román. Based in Boston, this organization encourages Latinos to register for voting, applying for a public board or commission, volunteering or serving on a non-profit's board, support a candidate or a campaign for public office, and even running a candidacy oneself. One step at a time, they are being successful on accomplishing their mission, of redistribution of power by amplifying the voices of minorities.

Normandia wants to revitalize the community of Methuen and create a positive impact on the local economy, which he refers to as "sleepy". He would work with his team to develop and seek opportunities for small business owners, provide support to local entrepreneurs with their ventures, and develop strategies to help both sectors to become more innovative, marketable and competitive. In the best interest of his people he wants to work and bring back Methuen's pride, a city in which he has lived his whole life.

MOULTEN: FROM PAGE 10

Commission after sharing tens of millions of peoples' personal profile information with Cambridge Analytica, which used it to assist President Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

The fallout from this issue, and other recent incidents involving Americans' digital data, has led Congress to engage more directly on data privacy issues.

According to Roll Call, technology companies have welcomed the intent of federal action, because it means that they will no longer have to contend with as many as 50 individual state standards when developing devices. But, the same report indicated strong resistance from the private sector and between the major political parties over where that effort should focus.

Meanwhile, governments in the European Union have cracked down on the flow of personal digital data from the EU to companies in the US. Earlier this year, for example, Facebook lost an appeal to Ireland's Supreme Court which would have prevented tighter data sharing laws from taking effect. ◊

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2019 SUMMER BEACH ACTIVITIES

SEACOAST HAPPENINGS: HAMPTON BEACH, NH

MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES ON THE BEACH

FIREWORKS WEDNESDAY 9:30PM AFTER THE CONCERT

SEA SHELL STAGE FREE CONCERTS

TWO SHOWS EACH NIGHT 7-8PM and 8:30-9:30PM

Wed, 8/7 (Four Part Country) Mark 209

Thurs,8/8 Goat Ropers – Country

Fri, 8/9 Brandy Band

Sat, 8/10 Brass Attack of Springfield

Sun, 8/11 Ian Black Band

Mon, 8/12 Children's Festival - family fun event - a magic show by BJ Hickman at 10 AM

Mon, 8/12 The Reminisants – Oldies

Tues, 8/13 Children's Week - Events

Tues, 8/13 Little Big Shots

Wed. 8/14 Children's Week - Events

Wed, 8/14 The Continentals

Thurs, 8/15 Martin & Kelly – Country

Fri, 8/16 Children's Week a Giant Costume Parade that marches almost the length of Hampton Beach. Every child gets a prize just for being a part of it!

Fri, 8/16 Mark 209

Sat, 8/17 Heritage Pop Orchestra

Sun, 8/18 Strafford Wind Symphony

Mon, 8/19 All Summer Long

Tues, 8/20 Little Big Shots

Wed, 8/21 Legacy Swing Band

Thurs, 8/22 The Mychael David Project – Country

Fri, 8/23 TALENT COMPETITION – (JUNIORS)

Sat, 8/24 TALENT COMPETITION – (SENIORS)

Sun, 8/25 TALENT COMPETITION – (FINALS)

Mon, 8/26 Amity Drive

Tues, 8/27 Mike & Me – The Vic Paul Show

Wed, 8/28 HELP

Thurs, 8/29 Angela West and Showdown – Country

Fri, 8/30 GOOD STUFF

Sat, 8/31 Boston Circus Guild

Sun, 9/1 The Continentals

Mon, 9/2 The Reminisants – Oldies

SALISBURY BEACH

FIREWORKS SATURDAY NIGHT 10:15PM AFTER THE CONCERT

SALISBURY BEACH CENTER FREE CONCERTS AND MOVIES:

Tue, 8/6 8PM Movie Night Tuesdays - Looney Tunes & Jaws

Wed, 8/7 6:45PM

Byfield Parish Praise Band & Boston Recording Artist Live2Love Worship

Fri, 8/9 7:15 PM

Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 8/10 7:30PM

The Eagles Experience: Premier Eagles Tribute Show

Tue, 8/13 7:45P

Movie Night Tuesdays - Incredibles 2

Wed, 8/14 6:45M

The Thom Stolar Band & Crossroads Praise Band

Fri, 8/16 7:15PM

Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 8/17 7:30PM

The B Street Bombers

Tue, 8/20 7"30PM

Movie Night Tuesdays - Jurassic Park

Wed, 8/21 6:45PM

Dave Spaulding & DRM Band & Fireside Worship

Fri, 8/23 7:1PM Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 8/24 music starts 1:30PM

Ramble Music Festival Adam Ezra Group

DONATIONS BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

The festival is dedicated to ending Veteran homelessness in New England.

Rambletown – Street vendors starting at 1PM

Live Music – 3-10PM featuring regional bands + headliner Adam Ezra Group

Beach -Side Yoga- Behind the Carousel

12:00-12:30- Session 1- Jean Donnelly

2:30-3:00- Session 2- Jennifer St. Laurent

Meet & Greet with Adam Ezra

12:15-1:15- Bloody Marys with Adam at Salisbury Sports Pub

Ramble Town

12:00-6:00 -Climbing Wall, Craft Vendors, Nonprofits, Wellness Area,

Games & Activities, Cookie Bake-off, Corn Hole

2:00-2:30 -Arrival of US Military Vets Motorcycle Club- Ride to the Ramble

4:00-5:30- Corn Hole Tournament

Ramble Intro with Adam Ezra - 1:15

Adam will officially kick-off the Ramble and introduce a Veteran hero who will say a few words!

Music- 1:30-10:00 PM

Stage One- Antje Duvekot

Stage Two- A.Menz

Stage One- Liz Frame & The Kickers

Stage Two- JunkYardFieldTrip

Stage One- The Contenders

Stage Two- Colby James & The Ramblers

Stage One- Adam Ezra Group

Ramble On After Party

10:15-10:30- Fireworks on the Beach!!

10:30- Kali Stoddard- Imari and Steve Hartmann at Carousel Lounge

Fireworks over the ocean – 10:15PM

Tue, 8/27 7:30PM

Movie Night Tuesdays - Aquaman

Wed, 8/28 6:45PM

Groovy Grace & Reunion

Fri, 8/30 7:15PM

Doo Wop with DJ Ralphie B.

Sat, 8/31 7:30PM

Scarab: The Journey Experience

NOTEBOOK FROM 9

painting, inspired by paintings from master artists.

The program is designed for teenagers and students with a high interest in art or that have previously attended art classes. A maximum of 8 students will be accepted in the class. Claire Gagnon, who teaches the Youth Summer Art Program Painting Week at the WHMA, will be instructing.

Audience: Teenagers age 15 to 17 (min. 3 students, max. 8 students).

Prerequisite: Teens with a high interest in art or those who have previously attended the Whistler Youth Summer Art Program. An intermediate skill level is recommended for this class.

Location: Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen Street, Lowell, MA

Supplies: All professional supplies and a smock will be provided

Price: $125

Registration: Send an email to Claire@ChezClaireArtSchool.com or call 617-901-3873. For more information, please visit www.chezclaireartschool.com

LAWRENCE PUTS IN SPEED BUMPS

City Invests in Speed Bumps

Speed Bumps Rolled Out Across the City

July 29, 2019, Lawrence, MA- In anticipation of schools opening, Mayor Daniel Rivera announces the rollout of temporary speedbumps across the city. These temporary speed bumps have been placed near most schools and in problem speeding areas. "Speeding has been and continues to be a public safety and quality of life issue in our community," said Mayor Dan Rivera. "My administration has been working hard to make our roads safer with intersection improvement projects, sidewalk paving, and safe route to school projects through MassDOT. These temporary speed bumps, coupled with increased speed enforcement and patrol, will go a long way in making sure our kids are safe when they are walking to and from school."

Speed Bumps have been put up in the vicinity of the following locations:

* Rollins School
* Leonard School
* Tarbox School
* Wetherbee School
* John Breen School
* Oliver School
* Lawlor School
* Bruce School/Bruce School Annex
* Lahey School
* Hennessey School
* Adult Learning Center
* Old Lawrence High School
* Arlington School
* Frost School
* South Lawrence East School
* Guilmette School
* Parthum School
* Lawrence High School
* Stadium Projects
* Ames Street at Butler Street
* Veterans Memorial Stadium
* Storrow Park

LOWELL EVENTS

August 17th, noon – 5 PM along Vandenberg Esplanade—Southeast Asian Water Festival

• Off The Beaten Path Food Tours presents Canalway Cultural District Food Tours—Saturdays, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM and Sundays, 3 -5 PM

• Free Yoga, Zumba, CrossFit and Phoenix workouts! in Kerouac Park, 75 Bridge Street—Mondays through September 15, 6 PM, Phoenix Workout; Tuesdays through August 20, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Sunset Yoga; Wednesdays through August 21, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Zumba with Bea; Saturdays through August 24, 6 – 7 PM, Get Fit with CrossFit

Theater and Performing Arts

• The Lowell Summer Music Series keeps on rocking with Blue Oyster Cult, this Friday, August 2; Mat Kearney, August 9th; The English Beat, August 10th; The Beach Boys, August 15th—Boardinghouse Park, 40 French Street, all shows 7:30PM

• LPD's 2019 Safe Summer Community Movie Nights bring these family movies to these locations

• Wednesday, August 14th-Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

• The Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack Street presents Out of This World Family Summer Movie Series, Monday, August 12th, 2 – 4 PM—click here for a complete schedule of summer fun at the library

• Share your talent at Open Mic Night at Warp and Weft, 197 Market Street—every Thursday at 9 PM

• Enjoy movies, comedy, music and more at the Luna Theater

Visual Arts

• "Fabrication of Imagination", a co-operative event of quilt and fiber exhibits through August at these museums and galleries—Arts league of Lowell, Ayer Lofts Gallery, The Brush Gallery, Gallery Z Co-Op, LTC Gallery, New England Quilt Museum, Whistler House Museum of Art

• At the Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen Street

• August 24 to October 26—"Fiber Fusions: A Juried Quilt Exhibition" (Reception, August 24, 2 – 4 PM)

• View the Whistler's permanent collection of late 19th century/early 20th century art Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 AM – 4 PM or by appointment

• The Brush Art Gallery & Studios, 246 Market Street

• At the New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck Street

• August 7 to September 8—Summer Celebration of NE Quilts

• "19th Century Basket Quilts" is on exhibit through August 18

• At the Arts League of Lowell, 307 Market Street

• Tuesday, August 6, from 7 – 8:30 PM—pop-up workshop on crochet technique by artist Sarah Kuhn

• At the Loading Dock Gallery, 122 Western Avenue

• Running through August 31st, "Funky Book Show" Artists' Books Invitational (Artist reception, August 3)

• Ongoing exhibits by 30 gallery artists

• Through October 31st at TreMonte Pizzeria, 112 Middle Street—"Impressions: New Work" an exhibit of oil paintings by Tom Gill (Reception, August 29, 6 – 8 PM)

History, Walks, Talks and Tours

• The Lowell National Historical Park brings Lowell's industrial and cultural history to life with mill, trolley and canal boat tours, museum exhibits, summer camps and more

• Meet Us on the Merrimack—Discover the Merrimack with National Park Rangers, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 PM from the UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse, 500 Pawtucket Blvd.

• Wellness on the Walkways

• Saturday, August 10th, 10 AM , Pawtucket Power Walk—Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 115 John Street

• Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust presents a Tree Identification Walk, Saturday, August 10, Lowell Cemetery, Lawrence Street entrance

• There's family fun to be had with Your City Saturday, Saturday, August 24th, from 1 – 4 PM—Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market Street

• First Floor Final Fridays! Happens the last Friday of every month, 4 – 9 PM, Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Avenue

September Special Events

• September 7 beginning at 2 PM on JFK Plaza—Blues & Brews Festival

• Savor the tastes of Brazil at the Brazilian Food Festival—Saturday, September 14, JFK Plaza, 50 Arcand Drive

• The Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race returns for a whimsical run around the city on Sat., September 21, beginning at 8 AM

Theater and Performing Arts

• The Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack Street opens their 2019/20 season on September 11 with Tiny Beautiful Things

• The Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack Street presents

• Peppa Pig Live!, September 14, 12 and 3:30 PM

• Three Dog Night, September 19, 7:30 PM ◊

When God Breaths!

Peter Larocque
RELIGION COLUMNIST

Greetings everybody! I am very honored and blessed to be able to produce this column every month and write about how great and wonderful God and His Son Jesus Christ really are.

Did you know that you are made in the image and likeness of God? That's right; and do you know that's why you breathe! You breathe because without it you can't live, and another reason is because God breaths. The difference is when God breaths, miracles happen!

Let's look at 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God", these five words are made up of this one Greek word, [Theopneustos], which means, God Breathed. What the Apostle Paul is saying to Timothy is that all scripture from Genesis to Revelation is God-Breathed! The Bible isn't just any ordinary book, nope, it is loaded from cover to cover with God's breathed word!

That fact that we have it to read and digest and respond to today is a miracle!

These God Breathed Scriptures beginning in Genesis tell us the first time that God breathed which by the way, still has an influence on us today. We read this in Genesis 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Without this breath of life from God Himself we would not be living souls. We would be simply dust! Making a pile of dust turn into a living being is a miracle!

In another record in God's Breathed Word we read how God Blessed the Prophet Ezekiel which we read in Ezekiel 37:1-10, "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews [a piece of tough fibrous tissue uniting muscle to bone or bone to bone; a tendon or ligament.] upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

Wow!!! Dead dried up bones became alive again by the Breath of God! That's a Miracle!

Why not! He breathed into a body made up of dust and it became a living being! So, starting with dried up bones made up of dust is a no brainer for God Almighty, Creator of the Heavens and Earth! Oh, I am aware of the theory of evolution, which is what it is, a theory coming from the wisdom of this world and man himself. It is like the Ford automobile trying to explain Henry. Just nonsense!

Okay back to truth! Jesus Christ in preparing His disciples on receiving the Holy Spirit also used his breath. We read about this in John 20:22, "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost:"

We know this is referring to what took place on the Day of Pentecost which we read about in Acts 2:1-4, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,[pneo, heavy breathing] and it filled all the house where they were sitting.3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Fantastic!!! This was when for the very first-time individuals became born-again believers and the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Bride was birthed! This my friends is The Miracle of All Miracles! A precious soul-changing from death to life!

My prayer for all of us is this, may the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Breath on us afresh! Amen!

I conclude with this verse found in Psalms 150:6, "Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." Amen!

There is going to come a day, when all the judgments are over and all the individuals who are left standing before God and has breath, shall without hesitancy or restraint, Praise The Lord! Let us all be in that number!

Love to all, Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

Four New England States Have Failed Girls by Not Criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Just two New England states—New Hampshire and Rhode Island—have enacted measures to protect women and girls from the horrors of female genital mutilation (FGM).

The other four—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont—have yet to pass laws to criminalize this barbaric procedure. And that, says the national #EndFGMToday initiative, is a tragedy.

Some New England states have faced chances to end FGM while others have squandered these opportunities.

International child advocate and attorney Elizabeth Yore leads #EndFGMToday and has worked with legislators in many states who want to enact or strengthen FGM criminalization laws. Yore also works with FGM survivors, helping them to tell their stories so that lawmakers will know the full, disturbing impact on women and girls, even decades after this cruel and unnecessary procedure.

Kadi Doumbia is one of the millions of survivors around the world who endured the physical and emotional scars of FGM. The Mali native, who left her country at the age of 18 and has been in the U.S. for about 25 years, has shared her story several times with lawmakers. In fact, she testified in person in front of New Hampshire and Connecticut legislative committees last year.

After hearing Doumbia's testimony, New Hampshire lawmakers passed FGM legislation and Gov. Chris Sununu signed it into law a year ago this month. The Rhode Island statute had already been on the books.

Connecticut legislators allowed the FGM criminalization bill to die in the House Public Health Committee. And despite hearing from another FGM survivor, Maine legislators in 2018 also let an FGM bill die in committee. Likewise, the Massachusetts bill has been stalled in committee since January. Vermont's bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare this April, where it has remained. Sixteen states total do not outlaw FGM.

EndFGMToday has asserted many times that state laws criminalizing FGM are all the more crucial now, after a Michigan judge ruled that the federal FGM law was unconstitutional. In the process, serious charges against three alleged FGM perpetrators awaiting trial in Detroit were dismissed. The U.S. government has declined to appeal the decision.

Learn more about FGM at www.EndFGMToday.com or on social media at #EndFGMToday.

REASON: FROM 2

slavery.

Good and evil behavior can be known by people of good will. As the great philosopher Peter Kreeft stated, the principles of natural moral law are objective, universal, and can be known through human reason. They are worth debating in the public square, for there may be nothing more pertinent. While religious faith may confirm and add motivation to follow what is objectively true and good, all mature people have the innate ability through the use of clear and unbiased reason to know the common behaviors that make up the common good that enable people to flourish.

Therefore, two truths follow from this gaping hole that modernity has left in its social discourse between individual desire and government, and between church and state: 1) Because we stopped discussing ethics and virtue in the public sphere we as a people have declined in decency and civility; and 2) We are 'spinning our wheels' and getting nowhere with all the political talk because we ignore its foundation: politics without ethics is like building a second floor without ever establishing the first. Such dialogue alone can never be fruitful.

So let us reduce the shallow political chatter that is ubiquitous in modern times and focus on the more important topic of personal and social morality. Civil society will never be civil unless people of all faiths reason together to discern the objective truth of human nature and the objective goods that enable it to flourish. Reason without ideology can detect this. When there is self-knowledge, personal discipline, and good old-fashion social pressure to do what is good, government need not be that involved in people's lives. Until this more basic discussion is reestablished in society, political talking heads will continue to lead us in spinning our wheels to nowhere.

Paul Murano teaches college philosophy and theology and is the talk host of 'Beneath the Surface' radio show and podcast. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com, and email him at PJDM@aol.com.

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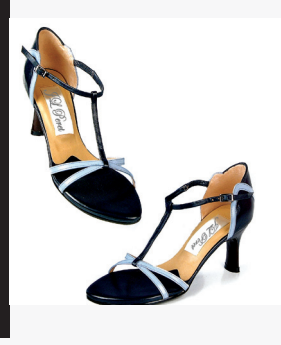

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SCHOOLS: FROM PAGE 19

because I went back and reviewed each one and made extensive notes about every discussion and decision that would have been different had we all known about the concerns."

"We could have started an investigation or audit way back in February 2018 had you not sat there and kept essential information a secret. We could have potentially saved hundreds of thousands of dollars - if not millions."

"As I just told you when you called, I am frankly outraged at how you violated the public trust, prevented us from doing our jobs, and denied us an opportunity to do what we should have done right then - the investigation and audit that would have gotten us back on track."

To which, DiZoglio responded in part:

"I would like to clarify that the business manager came to me worried about the spending. I went to the chair and the superintendent to address that. I then brought it up at the next meeting in February or March. I believe now after I look at the minutes it was the March 12 meeting, not the February 12 meeting. When the deficit numbers were growing. So, from my convo (SIC) to that meeting, there was no hiding anything. I was protecting the business manager from any retaliation or insubordination occurring with his boss. For you, Jana DiNatale to say I withheld information is very miss leading (SIC). I can't count the amount of times that you had private conversations with staff and not brought it directly to the committee."

DiNatale shot back: "And as to your statements above, I reject them. I have NEVER withheld information. I have NEVER not shared relevant or pertinent information with the committee. Any conversations I have with staff and/or legal about committee business are either shared at the next meeting or completely de minimus. Your comments above are outright lies and way out of line."

"There is one irrefutable fact at issue here: you withheld essential information, and that lack of transparency had disastrous consequences. You substituted your judgement for the committee's, and that was not your duty - and in doing so you immeasurably hurt the taxpayers and our schools. So to answer your question, yes, you should step down." ◊

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

Bill's TV Talk Mailbag

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

From time to time, my column will feature questions asked by readers regarding the world of TV. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have about TV at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com, and I'll do my best to answer you and may feature your question in a future column. Here's what we got!

Hi Bill, I really enjoy reading your column. I loved the series 'Mindhunter' on Netflix when it was on. But how come there was never a second season of the show? It had such a great first season. Was it meant to be a one season show? Thanks! – Sharon from Haverhill, MA

Hi Sharon. 'Mindhunter' premiered in October of 2017 to rave reviews from critics and fans alike. For a while there it seemed like we'd never see another season. However, fear not, the series is returning. Season 2 premieres on Netflix on August 16. Season 1 took place in 1977, and the second season will take place a couple of years later in 1979 or 1980. It will center on the Atlanta child murders that gripped the nation's attention during that time. There will still be plenty of scenes of the agents visiting serial killers in prison to pick their brains, and Charles Manson will be one of them. Let's hope we won't have to wait as long for season 3.

I'm a big fan of westerns, so I really love 'Yellowstone.' No one does westerns these days quite as good as Kevin Costner. Any scoop you can give me? Will there be a 3rd season? - Roger from Nashua, NH

Roger, 'Yellowstone' is a great performer for the Paramount Network. So much so that the series, which is midway through its second season, has already been renewed for a third. One thing I can tell you is that in season 3, Josh Holloway who you'll remember as Sawyer from 'LOST,' will join the cast. Holloway will play Roarke Carter, a handsome, charming, shaggy-haired hedge fund manager with ambitious plans in Montana, and he's sure to clash with the Dutton family.

My wife and I loved the recent live presentation remake of 'All in The Family' and 'The Jeffersons.' We thought it was such a great idea and so much fun to see some well-known actors take on these iconic roles. Any chance they may do something like this again? – Jerry from Newburyport, MA

'Live in Front of a Studio Audience' was very well received and it did very well in the ratings. Producers have expressed interest in doing more classic TV live shows. They have said they'd like to turn it into a more frequent event. Maybe several times a year or more. The question is which classic shows will they tackle next? Nothing has been officially announced yet, but many shows have been rumored such as Happy Days, Laverne & Shirley, Threes Company, Cheers, Sanford & Son, and Good Times.

Love your articles Bill! One of my favorite new shows last season was 'A Million Little Things.' Anything you can tell me about season 2 would be appreciated! Thanks. - Lisa from Ipswich, MA

I appreciate it Lisa, thanks for reading! I do have some information about season 2 of 'A Million Little Things' to share. We found out in last season's finale that PJ, played by Chandler Riggs, who Rome met in the emergency room turned out to be Barbara Morgan's son. Expect PJ's story to be a big part of season 2. Speaking of Rome, when we last saw him, he was grabbing a pamphlet about suicide prevention, but it turns out it may not be what we think. Rome will be exploring the idea of helping people who are struggling with suicidal thoughts like he was. I'm also hearing that a brand new mystery will be prominent throughout season 2. According to producers, "Viewers may not be aware that they are already exposed to the mystery, but it's already there and as we go into season 2, there is a new thing to follow that will play us throughout. A separate issue that is not related to Jon's suicide." We'll see how it plays out when 'A Million Little Things' returns to ABC on September 26.

That's it for this mailbag. Thanks for all the questions. Keep 'em coming!

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column. For daily TV news, follow Bill on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk. ◊

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SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK REVIEW

"Serafina Soars" (Book 3 of the Travel With Meseries)

BOOK REVIEW:
© 2019 and written by: Alma Hammond
Illustrated by: Anya Macleod
Published by: Sweetbeet Books, Bethesda, Maryland
Available in Hardcover, softcover and ebook (free with Kindle Unlimited)
Genre: Children's Book
Advance Copy
5 out of 5 Bookmarkers

Alma Hammond is an award-winning author of five children's books. The series, of which this book is part of, is drawn from the author's world-wide travels.

This book is about an Eurasian Eagle Owl, Serafina. She is shy and doesn't like loud noises. Attempting to build her confidence she reaches out of her comfort zone. As she does this Serafina takes us on various excursions throughout Spain. We view flamenco dancers, visit the Alhambra, stop at a cathedral, etc. Along her way Serafina is bullied by a donkey but then comforted by two turtledoves who witnessed the bullying. The advice the turtledoves impart is noteworthy for young children and for adults attempting to explain why some children/people are mean. Serafina's eventful day and the animals she meets along the way help make her emotionally stronger.

The book is not overly preachy as some P.C. books are nowadays. Ms. Hammond states that she hopes to educate and entertain both adults and children through her books. I believe she accomplishes this.

The colors and style of the illustrations are beautifully done. "Fun Facts" toward the end of the book add additional depth to the story and its educational factor.

The photo at the end of the book of the author with an Eagle Owl amazed me. I had no idea from the illustrations and text that this bird was as large as it is even though the author gave the reader its dimensions. Seeing Ms. Hammond with this bird next to her is something that I think everyone who sees it will be in awe of.

The author asks children to write to her and even suggests they draw a picture and send it to her. This is a nice personal way of connecting with her readers.

It was a pleasure reading this book.

I would recommend this book.

Susan Piazza is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com You can read the Prologue to her soon to be released book "A Bird Call That Isn't" under the blog of the same name.

Attachment A: Books by Sandra Stotsky

By published by Rowman & Littlefield since 2012

1.The Death and Resurrection of a Coherent Literature Curriculum: What Secondary English Teachers Can Do, with Jamie Highfill, Ashley Gerhardson, and Christian Goering, 2012.

This book is addressed to teachers who know that the secondary literature curriculum in our public schools is in shambles. Unless experienced and well-read English teachers can develop coherent and increasingly demanding literature curricula in their schools, average high school students will remain at about the fifth or sixth grade reading level--where they now are to judge from several independent sources. This book seeks to challenge education policy makers, test developers, and educators who discourage the assignment of appropriately difficult works to high school students and make construction of a coherent literature curriculum impossible.

2.An Empty Curriculum: The Need to Reform Teacher Licensing Regulations and Tests, 2015.

This country has tolerated a weak licensing system for prospective teachers for decades. This weak system has been accompanied by an increasingly emptier curriculum for most students, depriving them of the knowledge and skills needed for self-government. The complete revision of the licensing system for prospective and veteran teachers in Massachusetts in 2000 and the construction of new or more demanding teacher licensing tests contributed significantly to the Massachusetts "education miracle." That "miracle" consisted of enduring gains in achievement for students in all demographic groups and in all regional vocational/technical high schools since 2005—gains confirmed by tests independent of Massachusetts policy makers.

3.Changing the Course of Failure: How Schools and Parents Can Help Low-Achieving Students, 2018.

The basic purpose of this book is to help policy makers at all levels of government understand that (1) widespread adolescent underachievement is not susceptible to solution by educational interventions no matter how much money is allocated to public education; and (2) there are unidentified educational and civic costs to focusing on low achievement and to expecting public institutions of education (for K–12 and college) to solve a growing social problem. The book concludes with suggested policies for addressing the damage to public education from "gap-closing" standards and with suggested areas for policy making in order to change the current course of failure for many low-achieving students.

4.The Roots of Low Achievement: Where to Begin Altering Them, 2019.

The chief purpose of this book is to explain how public education in this country became dysfunctional as a result of policies designed to address low achievement. All students once learned that, regardless of academic achievement, they were politically equal to each other in our civic culture, with a shared civic identity. Yet, policy makers and philanthropists have led low achievers to believe that they haven't succeeded in school because of bigoted educators and communities. Students' families must revive the civic mission of their own public schools, and actively help to restore educated citizenship as the goal of K-12 public education if we are to begin to alter the roots of low achievement in this country.

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Roer, advanced toward Lövenich and Erkelenz, bypassed Mönchengladbach, took Krefeld, and then reached the Rhine. During March, the division was on the defensive along the Rhine, its sector extending from Homburg south to Düsseldorf. Crossing the river during April on pontoon bridges, the division attacked in the Wesergebirge, meeting stiff opposition. After several days and nights of terrific enemy resistance, the towns of Wilsede and Hessisch-Oldendorf were captured. In April of 1945, the 102d pushed on to the Elbe, meeting little resistance. Breitenfeld fell, late in April. Afterward the division outposted the Elbe River, 48 miles from Berlin. In May 1945, our American Soldiers shook hands with their Russian allies, the Soviet Troops were part of the 156th Division, the two units met just outside Berlin.

Elements of the Division uncovered a barn where the Germans killed over a thousand Jewish Concentration Camp Prisoners. The Commanding Officer made the local German civilians bury each prisoner and erect a White Star of David over each grave. The division patrolled and maintained defensive positions until the end of hostilities in Europe, then moved to Gotha for occupational duty.

The Division served in combat for 173 days, all of which were in the European Theater, and was awarded four Distinguished Unit citations. Soldiers in the 102st Infantry, earned eight Distinguished Service Crosses (second only to the Medal of Honor) six hundred and eighty-six Silver Stars, and over five thousand Bronze Stars. Over four thousand men in the Division received the Purple Heart. For his service to our nation, Bob received the Bronze Star, the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, the European Campaign medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the war, Bob married his wife Dorothy, and the couple had four children, three boys and a girl. Over breakfast, I had the honor of meeting one of his sons, who is also a Veteran. After the war Bob worked for the Richardson Company of Des Plaines, Illinois. He left to start the Rotary Plastics Company in Lynn, Massachusetts, his wife became ill, and died in 1969. Rotary Plastics was sold to Commercial Plastics in 1970. Then Bob joined the firm of Dellinger Sales, as a manufacturer's rep, and stayed until 1980. He started the New Hampshire Clinic for Hypnosis which he ran until he retired. Typical of his generation, Bob helped to save the world in 1945, then came back to the United States after the war, spending the rest of his life, quietly working and raising his family, during much of his working career, Bob was another kind of hero, a single parent! ◊

TEEN TALK with ABBY

How to be Conscientious on the Road: From the Point of View of a New Teen Driver

Abby Juknavorian
TEEN TALK COLUMNIST

Almost every time I drive, I become increasingly more and more nervous and cautious of the motorized world around me. After recently receiving my license, I have become acutely more aware of how truly recklessly and dangerously people are driving. I thought that as a new driver who recently participated in drivers etiquette, I would share some tips and tricks to make everyone feel safe(r) on the road.

1) Use your blinker! The simple and effortless gesture is a really big help when on the road. So many people don't use one to give the driver behind them enough time to assess the situation and prepare accordingly or they just plainly don't use one at all - which is completely maddening. I can't even count how many times I've had to slam on my brakes when the person in front of me makes a sudden or unwarned turn.

2) Keep a good distance between you and the car in front of you. It is honestly really nerve wracking as a new driver when someone is riding your bumper your whole ride home. As someone who knows how often police are lurking around my town watching for speeding cars, I make sure to stick to and around the speed limit and I would prefer if the car behind me respected that too and didn't try to encourage or get me to speed up for their convenience! Trust me, there are plenty of side streets and such to turn onto to get around me if need be.

3) Take your time. I understand that everyone always has to be somewhere at a certain time but, not checking a GPS application beforehand to assess when you needed to leave in order to arrive at your destination in a timely fashion is nobody's fault but your own. Even inexperienced drivers know that traffic is crazy and jams can happen at any time. What makes these situations bad though are the people who rush around and cause an even bigger mess with an accident. If I'm being honest, girls in my age range are the biggest offenders of this (hey, a girl has to look good when she's going out right?), but I've learned that I have to get up twenty minutes before I usually do and you should too!

4) Care and be aware! The best advice about driving that I've ever received is to just care about others around you by being aware of your surroundings. I know that your favourite Rolling Stones song just came on the radio but, don't take your eyes off the road just to jam out. If it's really that important to you then pull over and rock on! I can't tell you how many times I've seen people driving around, not looking at the road at all, and almost causing an accident. It's no secret that this is mostly caused by cell phones and technology, which leads me to my next point...

5) Get off your phone! Seriously man, just do it. Yes, as a young person in society, I basically live off of my phone, but not when I'm driving. When I do need to use my phone for directions and such, I make sure to turn on this fantastic feature called, DO NOT DISTURB. It's a game changer. But jokes aside, using phones while driving is a serious issue that needs to be stopped because no matter how good or experienced of a driver you are, no one is safe from texting their life away. Plus it's ILLEGAL!

Well, those are just a few of my tips and ideas for how to be the absolute best and safest driver you can be in order to make yourself and everyone on the road around you feel a little safer while driving in a crazy world. And to make sure you are updated on all the rules of the road, visit https://www.mass.gov/lists/drivers-manuals. Buckle up!

Abigail Juknavorian is a junior in high school and a resident of Methuen. She is a member of the YMCA Youth and Government Press Corps and a delegate to the UMASS Lowell Model UN.

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for JULY 2019 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Carolina Properties LLC, Lawrence T Weiss/Lawrence Weiss & Charlene F Baker-Weiss/Charly Weiss/Charlene Weiss, $2,150,000, 1 Manning Wy

Matthew & Tiffany Renfro, David & Daneen Forlizzi, $1,600,000, 2 Shandel Cir

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Ann M & John G MacLellan III Trs & A M MacLellan Realty Trust, $1,375,000, 9 Crenshaw Ln Unit 8-3

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Daniel J & Nora E Massiello Trs & Daniel J Massiello Living Trust & Nora E Massiello Living Trust, $1,325,000, 15 Crenshaw Ln Unit 9-3

Terrance E & Jennifer C Healy, Allen T & Anne M Ravizza, $1,250,000, 103 Abbot St

Bank of America N A, MBAH LLC, $1,155,000, 65 Central St

Bryan P Sweeney & Yvonne A Van Gessel, Scott A Rosen & Lisa B Baute, $1,150,000, 10 Woodland Rd

Thomas W & Gail A McNaughton, William T & Deborah MacLellan, $1,030,000, 30 Stoneybrook Cir

Thomas F & Kelly M Walsh, Li Niu, $896,500, 21 Orchard Crossing

Joel H & Erlinda Parks, Jon & Virginia Anderson, $895,000, 49 Abbot St

Daniel P & Emma J Lockyer, Peter & Marinna Connolly, $880,000, 3 Harper Cir

Ronald D Wiltshire Jr & Tara M Wiltshire, Brian J & Lynne Marie Cutaiar, $875,000, 14 Starr Ave East

Deborah M Begos, Stephen & Angela Martone, $870,000, 6 Wabanaki Wy

Michael B & Carol Crawford, Vikas Choudhary & Anusuiya Bharadwaj, $860,000, 16 Keystone Wy

Henry A Prussman IV, Yu Wang, $842,000, 8 Cherokee Cir

Peter D & Janet D Schiavoni , Aditya Reddy Jinna & Sunaina Jinna, $839,900, 17 Avery Ln

Marilyn A Farley, Michael J Drooff & Alec Ngo & Christine Choy, $835,000, 8 Molly Rd

Jean R Elrick, Salvatore A Gaglio & Janet L Krause, $830,000, 24 Inwood Ln

H Gregory & Lisa B Dunne, Ting Pan & Zhaorong Meng, $828,000, 32 Avery Ln

Thomas F & Mary F LaBrie, Andrew O'Keeffe & Kristin A Bair, $821,000, 4 Cattle Crossing

Aihua Ju, Liang Jin & Yifeng Xu, $820,000, 8 Candida Wy

Michael J & Clarissa McDermott, Daniel A Koh & Amy J Sennett, $810,000, 21 Windemere Dr

David A Tremblay & Paige E Kane, Xiao Luo & Xinrui Wang, $810,000, 5 Blcakberry Ln

Louis Emre Nagy Jr & Kathleen Blue Nagy, Thomas Guy & Daliena Darlene Hubschman, $799,000, 14 Blackberry Ln

Leo D & Donna A Lynch/Donna Alice Sloan, Brendan L & Alexandra M Day, $790,000, 7 Parthenon Cir

Taylor Cove Development LLC, Jean Francois Rouleau & Thomas Heath, $776,200, 21 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 27

Can & Selen Aktar, Diane M Marcou Tr & 4 Hemlock Road Nominee Realty Trust, $765,000, 4 Hemlock Rd

Alger & Souci U Rollins, David A & Michelle E Friedman, $750,000, 62 Maple St

William Blair Heavey & Nicolette Nordin Heavey, Ryan Johnson, $745,000, 56 Wildwood Rd

John C Sullivan & Molly S Mugler, Thomas & Alena Zelem, $735,000, 6 Osgood St

Deborah L & Kenneth R Hyde Jr, Amy M & Jacob W Hafensteiner, $735,000, 19 Kirkland Dr

Michael Girouard, Michael & Elisa Puglielli, $728,750, 35 Pine St

Robert A Price Jr & Daryl M Price, Shannon McLaughlin, $725,000, 128 Wildwood Rd

Scott I & Perla Redfern, Mouna Ibourk & Simon Lamprell, $715,000, 11 Oak St

Mason G & Joan G Browne/Joan C Browne, Nicholas A & Caitlin E Barash, $690,000, 207 Haggetts Pond Rd

Chanveasna Khath & My Hong Thi Dang, Madhu Sirivelu, $680,000, 18 River Rd

Andrew J O/Keeffe & Kristin A Bair/Kristin A Bair O'Keeffe, Kellie Jean & Nathan E Altaffer, $660,000, 5 Lantern Rd

Gordon & Barbara X Becker, Ryuji & Nozomi Morizane, $659,000, 24 Forest Hill Dr

Svetlana Popova & Christopher J Smith, Michael John Waters & Kerri Marie Verrochi, $635,000, 10 Germano Wy

Sonal Sheth, Luigi R Zaza, $620,000, 28 Rutgers Rd

Douglas & Michelle Webb, Jonathan B & Varvara Zucker, $615,000, 64 Haverhill St

Glenda L Gilleran Revocable Trust & Glenda L Gilleran Tr, Andrew & Chanbopha C Catalano, $600,000, 15 Dean Cir

Tara J Anderson & Eric K Fasano, Meghan A Chase, $582,000, 7 Willard Cir

Jill Hammel Tr & Kennedy Irrevocable Trust & Barbara S Kennedy & John P Kennedy, Joseph E Carroll Tr & Virginia McCully Tr & Carroll McCully Family Revocable , $580,000, 31 Kirkland Dr

Thomas Scott & Alexandra C McGrane/Alexandra C Rhode , Michael & Gillian Mulcahy, $570,000, 13 Wildwood Rd

Marilyn H Harvey/Marilyn H Lewis , Jillian M & Peter A White, $570,000, 3 Henderson Ave

Mark & Elizabeth Memmolo, Kevin Shepard & Jennifer Quinlan, $565,000, 8 High Plain Rd

Andrew J & Lauren Lynch/Lauren A Ryan, Jackson M & Caroline J Cranshaw, $565,000, 28 Riverina Rd

Richard P & Elizabeth E Picard, Gerald Stabile Jr & Amy Stabile, $564,500, 249 South Main St

Stacy N Gilroy, Deidre Helen Pizzarella & Juan Carlos Morales Jr, $550,000, 354 River Rd

James G Affleck & Diane L Fagan Affleck, Robert Edward & Linda Ann Proctor, $550,000, 62 Whittier St

American Real Estate Development LLC, Kathleen Zahorik Quill, $545,000, 12 Cuba St

Julie Anne & Chuck H Delory, Roberto C Macedo, $542,500, 12 Pleasant St

Jason E & Amy B Rothstein, Deepak Kumar Pandey & Anita Ghosh, $525,000, 3 Courtney Ln

Charles V & Meghan D Leitao, David J Fazio & Laura Coughlin, $520,000, 3 Dartmouth Rd

Andover Realty Trust & Elizabeth DeLucia Tr, Ronald Aaron Krueger & Yerim Kang Krueger, $519,000, 30 Holt Rd

Richard G & Patricia M Almon, Barry I & Diane M Mendell, $515,000, 1 Glenmeadow Rd

Karl & Anelise Bateson, Scott J Correia, $496,000, 173 North Main St

Jason & Kristi Barbieri, Ariana Lavita, $490,000, 16 Marland St

Lauren C Rossi/Lauren R Diffenbach, Ryan J & Kathleen Bacharach, $485,000, 45 County Rd

James E Blaskovich Jr & Esther E Blaskovich, Marina Melnikova, $475,000, 79-81 Chestnut St Unit 1

Evan & Kelcie Carpinito/Kelcie Eustis, Jennifer A Doherty, $465,000, 6 Gray Rd

Brendan L & Alexandra M Day/Alexandra K Mitton, Nicolai & Pernille Konow, $459,900, 19 Sutherland St

Michael & Elisa Puglielli, Daniel & Dorothea C Poletti, $457,125, 87 Pine St

Dornoch Realty Trust & Pamela H Mitchell Tr, Todd M Pietrasiak & Julie Eberhardt, $455,000, 172 High Plain Rd

George J Cooke Jr & Jenifer McLean Cooke, Mikaela M Ferguson, $440,000, 8 Dufton Rd

Edward A Williams, Elizabeth K Weatherwax, $335,000, 450 Brookside Dr Unit C

Clifford & Mary Langevin, Saravanan Dhakshinamoorthy, $335,000, 70 Stevens St

Mia K Cloonan, David Croteau, $330,000, 1 Punchard Ave Unit 3

Historic Mills Realty Trust & Louis P Minicucci Jr Tr, Lynn M McCumber, $324,000, 4 Powdermill Sq Unit 104

Frederick De Lisio Est/Fred De Lisio Est & Jeanne Patrice De Lisio, 63 Andover St LLC, $300,000, 63 Andover St

Michael M & Isabelle F Alouane, Lisette Castellanos Ramirez & Luberkis Ramirez & Johnny Urena, $285,000, 2 Longwood Dr Unit 407

Keith Yen, Yuhao Qian, $245,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 208

Sara Hrono, Xiaomei Xing, $240,000, 247 North Main St Unit 8

Shirley L Nichols Est & Virginia E Bramante & Ronald G Nichols, Soghra Walsh, $235,000, A2 Colonial Dr Unit A2-7

John S & Ruth E McKenzie, Tony DeAngelis, $225,000, 354 North Main St Unit 208

Agop & Madlen Arslanoglu, Cora Zhang & Rong Fei Zhang, $215,000, 60 Washington Park Dr Unit 4

Tyler Jensen, Amantini Family Living Trust & Giuliano Amantini Tr & Nancy Sun Tr, $187,000, 80 Washington Park Unit 10

Nyamweru Waruhiu, Garret James Maxwell Sullivan, $187,000, 100 Washington Park Dr Unit 3

Donna M Newhouse, Ny Chao, $185,000, B2 Colonial Dr Unit 2

Haitao Cheng & Xiaomin Shao, Mei Li, $181,500, 20B Washington Park Dr Unit 5

LAWRENCE

Orion Venture XII North LLC, HAPF LLC, $1,160,000, 170 Winthrop Ave

275 Andover Street Realty LLC, DLC Phase Two LLC, $1,075,000, 273-279 Andover St

Springfield Brook LLC, LEX APARTMENTS ON BROOK LLC, $1,050,000, 15-19 Brook St

Rafael A Bido, Erileidy Pena-Almanzar & Antonia Almanzar, $540,000, 11-13 Saunders St

Girouard One Family Trust & Mary L Girouard Tr, Karl H Simon, $530,000, 125 Berkeley St

Moise Villa, Luisa M Lopez Rosa & Joel David Perroaux-Lora, $500,000, 153-155 Bennington St

Mohammad Almawali, LAP Investments LLC, $493,000, 34 Coolidge St

Steven & Kim Araiza, Jorge O Rodriguez, $485,000, 161-163 Boxford St

Santa M Rodriguez & Hasban McDonald, Orland Ynoa Ortega & Fior D Sosa Deynoa, $480,000, 284 High St

Paul Karongo, Cipriano Vargas, $470,000, 405-407 Haverhill St

Essex Management & Realty Property Inc, Roberto Tavares, $460,000, 28-30 Granville St

Jesus Maria Hernandez Est & Eva Veras, Maria S Munoz Ortiz & Arys Cabrera Munoz, $460,000, 123 Bailey St

Daher Group Inc, Diomarys Guantes Quezada & Confesora Quezada Perez, $457,000, 39, 39A Pleasant St

Julio E Espinal, Yennifer Cruz de Perez & Oscar E Perez, $450,000, 19 Saxonia Ave

Ronald Lopez & Maria Lopez/Maria Veliz & Debbie Lopez , Valdir Sequeira & Mario Sequeira, $450,000, 26-28 Linden St

Alberico R Cruz, Miguel T Salazar & Isolina Salvador Salazar, $450,000, 123 Exeter St

Chloe LLC, Hector F Diaz & Hector Diaz Pena Jr, $450,000, 45-47 Atkinson St

Gorn Realty Trust & Joel A Gorn Tr, Robert B Rojas, $445,000, 500 Lowell St

Trio Investments LLC, Junior Lopez, $445,000, 52-54 Brookfield St

Eliezer Rosairo, Ivelisse Batista, $435,000, 30 Landsdowne Ct

Claudia N Sanchez/ClaudiaNallely Coronado, Samuel Alexander Coronado Cruz & Ana Rita Cruz, $430,000, 545 Haverhill St

Robert Blackwell, Tammy Woolfolk & Hans Kim, $430,000, 19 Stevens St

Arielys Perez, Candida R Capellan Potorreal & Karina G Capellan, $425,000, 135 Boxford St

Erick M Marcano, Robert & Rossely Castillo, $420,000, 545 Howard St

Jose L Marquez, David Zarate Sanchez & Juan Carlos Almanzar Hernandez, $420,000, 113 Oxford St

Marques Realty LLC, Karisa Ajanel & Angel R Monegro Rodriguez, $415,000, 67-69 Hawley St

RJJM LLC, Michelle Gonzalez & Adriana Fernandez, $410,000, 18 Campo Seco St

Pedro Luna & Marcos O Luna, Cipriano Vargas, $400,000, 199 Union St, 68-70 Brook St

Susan M & William F Hutton Trs & Doyle Street Realty Trust, ADEP Group Inc, $395,000, 1 Doyle St

Robert & Stella Gosselin, Andrea Ruth Jensen, $394,900, 19 Leeds Ter

Barbara Sanchez/Barbara Hoyt, Luisa Medrano, $390,000, 36-38 Bowdoin St

Tomas & Ana L Fernandez, Erick M Marcano, $380,000, 94 Greenfield St

Denise M Clegg & Charles J Sereigo Est, Manuel Sanchez Aybar, $377,000, 303-305 Erving Ave

Juan D & Nurys Sanchez, Rocheily Alvardo Marte & Willy Paulino Rosario, $375,000, 415 Lowell St

Sepreanna F Peterson Est & Richard P J Guilmette, Mikey M Perez, $370,000, 271-273 Water St

Pablo & Jennifer Matos/Jennifer Santiago, Sayra Y Lopez Palencia, $360,000, 87 Bowdoin St

William F Howarth III, R & L Goulet Realty Trust & Gerald R & Sherri L Goulet Trs, $355,000, 22-24 East Pleasant St

Fournier Family Nominee Trust & Jacques Fournier Tr & Helene Fournier Tr & Steven Fournier Tr, Emmanuel Frias, $353,000, 8-10 Caulkins Ct

Chilinh Chris Nguyen, Sean Fitzgerald, $350,000, 5 Lorenzo Rd

John E Maticic Jr Tr & Nelia M Maticic Tr & Maticic Family Trust, Matthew Golden, $350,000, 8 Tilton St

Ezequiel Espinal & Adriana Then-Espinal, Jefferson D DeJesus, $350,000, 100 Exeter St

REAL ESTATE: PAGE 26

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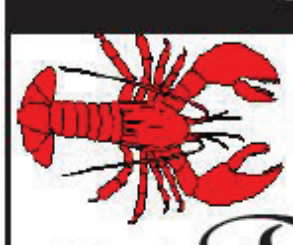

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Thomas J & Judy Hartman, Julio D Rosario & Yaritza Anes-Rosario, $346,000, 60 Coolidge St

Jose M Fernandez, Ramon Rosario Alcequiez, $345,000, 164 Willow St

18-20 Hale Street LLC, Lenny Baez, $342,500, 18-20 Hale St

14-16 Hale Street LLC, Driany M Cruz, $342,500, 14-16 Hale St

Mary Faria Est/Mary G Faria Est & Natalia M Doyle, Pinnacle Acquisitions Group LLC, $330,000, 29 Robinson Ct

Patricia M Gonzalez/Patricia M Ruiz & Felix L Gonzalez, Ramon I Munoz-Gardinet, $330,000, 27 Chelmsford St

Adan Rodriguez & Jenny M Espinal, Juan J Matos, $328,000, 30 Woodland St

Katherine Capron Lammers Tr & Susan K Ogden Reilly Tr & Ogden Realty Trust, David D Norman, $327,500, 444 Mount Vernon St

Christopher & Amanda Chaves/Amanda Coffin , Henry E Diaz Tavarez, $320,000, 104 Pearl St

Kathleen Murray & Henrietta Robidoux Est, Jose R Melo, $310,000, 239 Mount Vernon St

Johanna Llibre-Cruz & Ramire Cruz, Nora Beltran, $307,000, 55 Amherst St

Hector Tavares, Tiesha Marie Hernandez, $306,000, 80 South Bowdoin St

Mary Lou Shea, Melissa Charles, $305,000, 277 Colonial Rd

Janice Drinkwater Tr & Judith Parker Supplemental Needs Trust, Manuel De Jesus Lara Villalona & Jeannie Skarlet Lara & Maria Amantina Garcia, $299,900, 14 Martha Ln

Carmen & Jose Garcia, Marianela Martinez & Rafael Alcantara, $295,000, 545 Hampshire St Unit 545

Andrew E Dexter & Stephanie R Valcourt-Dexter, Julie Comeau, $293,888, 27 Emerald Ave

Daniel Garcia/Dan Garcia, Maria & Edwin Suazo, $280,000, 9 Kingston St

US Bank NA Tr, Johnathan Duran & Deborah Carbuccia, $273,000, 61 Amherst St

Zoila Gomez, Juan Alfredo Diaz & Fiordaliza Gomez, $270,000, 269 Cypress Ave

Carlos Mercedes, Santo Ortega, $265,000, 57 Bodwell St

Mary Faria Est/Mary G Faria Est & Natalia M Doyle, Pinnacle Acquisitions Group LLC, $260,000, 30-32 Robinston Ct

Ramona Montilla & Karina Montilla, Fabiola Jara Quillay, $255,000, 53 Lexington St

Paola Sanchez/Paola A Grullon, Luis N Disla, $232,500, 170 Bailey St Unit 1

Altagracia & Ramon Sanchez, Octavia Lopez & Ironelis Hernandez Lopez, $225,000, 172 Bailey St Unit 2

Kyle & Stephanie L Worthley, Christopher P Mathews, $225,000, 29 Wedgewood Rd Unit 29

Kenneth Daher & Mary Koontz-Daher, Dorka M Crisostomo, $210,000, 8 Hey St

Joseph A Bryant & Debra J Bryant & Sharon J Bryant, Laura Chevalier, $205,000, 182 Emmett St

Jeannine A Pare & Marcia M Michaud & Nancy M Fay & Marc P Michaud, Paul Nartiff Jr, $190,000, 69A Inman St

Johnny Castillo, Ana V Perez De Morel, $185,000, 59 Maple St Unit 30

Carmen A Mejia & Edward J Mejia, Ynes Altagracia Paulino-Ramos, $185,000, 115 Beacon Ave Unit 115B

Marie A Rivera , Lamacchia Development LLC, $164,000, 91 William St

Amy Heath & Jennifer Gitelson, 173 Prospect Street LLC, $155,000, 173 Prospect St

Christine E Krupa, Dalisa Diaz, $153,000, 78-80 Dracut St Unit 5

Luis Crispin & Danilsa Pena/Danilsa Pena De Crispin, Lisa M Larrache, $130,000, 20 Knox St Unit 3

Frank A Sarcia Jr, Kyle Regan, $100,000.00, 11 Lawrence St Unit 810

Frank A Sarcia Jr, Kyle Regan, $90,000, 11 Lawrence St Unit 805

Frank A Sarcia Jr, Carla & Mathew Rasetta, $90,000, 11 Lawrence St Unit 804

Miriam O Juarez, Sree Family Trust LLC, $64,000, 9 Bevel St

Charles Hope Co LLP, Richard Acevedo, $25,000, 460-462 Hampshire St

METHUEN

Brimart LLC, Pena Real Estate Investments LLC, $825,000, 290 Broadway

Toll MA IV LLC, Mark F & Suzanne L Smith, $780,624, 49 Pine Tree Dr Unit 85

Karen M & Franklin J Small Jr, Anthony J & Stacia Perrotta, $675,000, 32 Morgan Dr

Toll MA IV LLC, Thomas J & Donna Sue Dragosits, $654,255, 44 Sequoia Dr Unit 60

Christine L Eliopoulos, Jay Altavesta & Kathy Berry, $630,000, 37 Arrowwood St

CBI Investment LLC, Lawler Family LLC, $620,000, 95 Ayer St

David & Sheilah A Swallow, Christoopher P & Laurin K Kotyla, $614,900, 23 Archibald St

Mary A Kasper, Vincenzo Pesce & Jana Zanni, $600,000, 4 Central St

Gregory R Condike Tr & Christopher W Condike Tr & Condike Legacy Trust, Kathleen M Scomis & Peter M Alagna, $595,000, 43 Sherwood Dr Unit 168

Hermes V Godoy, Alan Almanzar, $560,000, 77-81 Tenney St

Brandon Freeman, Michael L Pollack, $550,000, 33 Stanley Rd

Homes at Great Oaks LLC, Stephanie Saniuk & Robert Seibold, $539,900, 3 Tucker Ter

Homes at Great Oaks LLC, Hung V Phu & Thao T Le, $539,900, 1 Tucker Ter

MJC Development Corp, Quoc-Anh Ngo & Christine Ward, $535,000, 41 Tyler St

Nancy K & David W Nickerson Trs & Nancy K Nickerson Revocable Trust, Zenzo & Michelle Matoga, $535,000, 2 Coachman Ln

DiGuilio Irrevocable Trust & Nicole M DiGuilio Tr & Janice M DiGuilio Life Est & Kenneth J DiGuilio Life Est, Jessica Addario & Albert Pecora, $529,000, 50 Oak Meadow Ln

Cedar Real Estate Corp, E & C Real Estate LLC, $526,000, 281 Merrimack St

Ferris A Hatem, Carlos Maldonado Ramirez & Hermelinda Mauricio & Cesar Mauricio, $510,000, 25 Central St

Patricia A Roberson Tr & John A Roberson Family Trust, Maria & Manuel Bairos, $505,000, 31 Sevoian Dr

Mark K & Sharon A O'Malley, Johanna Llibre-Cruz & Ramire Cruz, $495,000, 5 Arabian Dr

Mailan T Vu & Triet Luu, Jade M & Matthew L Jalbert, $489,000, 6 Lady Slipper Ln

Danny & Natalie Oliverira/Natalie Pereira , Scarlet Hiraldo Nolberto & Juan E Duran Perez, $480,000, 168-170 Oakland Ave

Kathleen Meghan Maraghy & Kerry L Nicolls, Heather Joyce & Joseph Earle, $480,000, 9 Oakmeadow Ln

Walter & Fe Graves, Vilson Taveras & Vianny M Mejia, $468,600, 152-154 Oakland Ave

Charles J Russek Jr , Scott Williams, $460,000, 11 Cox Ln

Ronald Michael Peredna Est/Ronald M Peredna Est & Camille Miragliotta & David Sheafer Jr , Jaime & Christina Franco, $452,000, 86 Pleasant St

Gordon D & Patricia A Ohlson, Matthew G & Katelyn M Maroon, $445,000, 67 Olympic Village Dr

Curtis & Margaret Carr, Thomas P Burke Jr, $440,000, 2 Eagle Ln

Kotyla Family Trust & Christopher P & Laurin K Kotyla Trs, Kennedy & Marianela Delacruz, $431,400, 238 Oak St

Abigail Lucas Enterprises Inc, Nimesh Maharjan, $425,000, 21 Coronet Ave

Lorraine Farrell, Francis S & Ye Maloney, $425,000, 82 Sevoian Dr

Andrew P Graham, Brett V Buckley, $410,000, 6 Tyler St

Christopher L & Kathryn Ann Gallant/Kathryn A Ferri, Liz Jeanette Carbonell, $405,000, 147 Butternut Ln

Alena Dawn Samuel, Yolanda Mata Reyes & Josephine Garcia, $400,000, 123 East St

Steven M & Jenna M Pellerin, Christine A & Thomas E Curtis, $400,000, 28 Warren Ave

Kenneth & Catherine Rossi, David V & Marie E Nelson, $399,000, 35 Frye Rd

Lisa Doucette Walton & Scott F Walton, Kenneth Healy, $399,000, 6 May Ct

Villella Construction Co Inc, Diana I Centeno & Mariano Centeno, $399,000, 4 Anthony St

John J & Doria E Gearty, Franklin J Small Jr & Karen M Small, $395,000, 34 Duston Dr

Gustavo De Jesus Diaz, Addonay Naranjo Ramos, $390,000, 6 Tilton St

Carolyn M Doughty/Carolyn M Fasoli, Dennis Salois Jr & Patricia Salois, $384,900, 1 Albion St

Rachelle M Carroll, Joseph P Chiarenza, $371,000, 1 Roma Ave Unit U1

Michael Soloman/Michael Solomon, Kevin Palladino, $370,000, 56 Oak Hill Dr

Santos D Taveras, Elvys Michael Vargas Nunez & Ysabel Taveras, $370,000, 8 Willow St

John R & Jeanne M McHale, Manuel Amado Jr & Annetta Nora Amado, $370,000, 19 Junior Ave

Leslie A Brebner, Kristina Deegan, $360,000, 176 Edgewood Ave Unit 1

Theresa M & Steven E Thompson, Kelly Piantigini & Francis McCormick, $358,000, 1 Concord St

Jose Antonio Rosado Jr & Erika Rosado , Ramon Santiago & Elisa Rosario Polanco De Santiago, $357,000, 61 Boston St

Darren S & Shelley A Coco, Jorge Colon Polanco, $355,000, 5 Peever St

Ryan E & Ashley M Sullivan /Ashley M Tontodonato, Carmen E Culbert & Jessica Cotto & Cynthia Cotto, $345,000, 4 Louise Ave

Katelyn M & Matthew G Maroon, Tiffany L & Joseph A Rodenhiser, $340,000, 36 Howe St

Eugene V Dufresne & Rodana A Dufresne Irrevocable Trust & Eugene V & Rodana A Dufresne Trs, Paul H Cunniff, $339,900, 3 Deborah Ave

Jesse & Erin K Kattar, Thomas Lopez & Bruna Gomes, $331,000, 19 Bruce St

Robert & Sharlene Marie Dion, Angel A & Evelyce O Diaz, $329,900, 2 Evergreen Ave

Jenny Mackraz Real Estate Trust & Nadema A Gemmell Tr, Oscar S Orellana Monterosa & Flor M Palacios De Orellana, $325,000, 11 Magnolia Rd

Janet-Lee Ratcliffe, Lee N Machado, $320,000, 17 Florence Rd

Andrew J Sanford, Ana L Perez Burgos & Maria Isabel Burgos, $315,000, 36 Chelmsford St Unit 36

Anthony J Demarco, Samantha C Escott, $315,000, 29 Milk St

Scott T carbonneau Jr, Richard B Almonte Ortiz, $314,900, 32 Webb St

Rodah Al-Taweel & Lina Alasmar, Joana Garcia & Wendy Dominguez, $313,900, 107 Birchwood Rd

Pamela Marchand & Catherine A Valcourt & Linda M Simmons & Claire Valcourt, Darlene L Consaul & John Machera, $313,800, 140 Howe St

Monterey Drive Realty Trust & Maureen R McGilvreay Tr & James D Sullivan III Tr , Casey A MacNeil & Zachary A Lane, $299,000, 19 Monterey Dr

Melanie St Louis/Melanie Richardson & Michael Richardson, Bledar & Minda Qyrfyci, $295,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 8-204

Charles E Heseltine, Abdelkader Ahmed Rkiouak, $290,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 8-210

Wells Fargo Bank NA, Correa Properties LLC, $267,500, 6 Gaywood Cir

Douglas Lee MacArthur, Handry Mejia & Judit Cabrera, $255,000, 49 Christopher Dr Unit 92

Charles T & Sandra J Boddy, Andrew & Jennifer Hakansson, $250,000, 25 Bruce St

Matthew Paul & Erin Therese Sordillo, Ann Marie Bolduc, $241,000, 20 Washington St Unit 41

Trisha C Foster, Laura Ferguson Levis, $240,000, 125 Harris St

Robert Diaz, Edward F Cruz, $235,000, 45-47 Merrill Ter

Marylou Chiasson/Marylou Kott, James & Crista Pehl, $202,500, 87 Pilgrim Cir Unit 87

Stephen Dirico, Francelina Espinal, $190,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 48

Matthew D Maguder & Claudia Maguder Life Est, Zhonghua Michael Gu, $180,000, 375 Merrimack St Unit 5

Robert D'Arcangelo Tr & Philip R D'Arcangelo Tr & Alfred P D'Arcangelo Jr Tr & D'Arcangelo Family Irrevocable Trust, Darren & Shelley Coco, $178,000, 46 Ashford St Unit 11

Douglas J Urban, Benchmark Realty Trust & Randall F Hart Tr, $160,000, 188 Oak St

Raymond E Damphousse Jr Tr & Phyllis J Damphousse Tr & 18C Constitution Way Realty Trust, Yan Liang, $144,000, 18C Constitution Wy Unit C

Janet McLennan Tr & J&R Realty Trust, Home Loan Investment Bank FSB, $118,000, 188 Broadway Unit 6

Alfred G Maroun, Samantha Petrou, $106,233.70, 20 Washington St Unit 32

NORTH ANDOVER

700 Chickering Road North Andover LLC, KRE-BSL Husky North Andover LLC, $9,570,000, 700 Chickering Rd

JDP Realty LLC, Enterprise Bank & Trust Co, $1,400,000, 247 Chickering Rd

Frederick Bleiler III & Kimberly Bleiler, Scott & Tara Lee Diamond, $850,000, 1806 Salem St

Charles J Welch Tr & Randy N Welch Tr & Randy N Welch Trust & Charles J Welch Trust, James Raso, $810,000, 135 Carter Field Rd

R Derrick I & Brittany A Kittler, Mark H Trombly Tr & Trombly Family Irrevocable Trust & Kimberly B Dow, $810,000, 700 Osgood St

Karen D & Christopher J McMann, Vincent & Eleanor Lucarini, $803,000, 57 Stage Coach Rd

Thomas J & Donna Sue Dragosits, John T & Jessica N Lee, $750,000, 25 Ogunquit Rd

Thornton Mark Woodworth/Thornton M Woodworth & Joanna M Woodworth/Joanna Woodworth, Tameka Geaslen & Bryan Johnson, $735,000, 80 Campion Rd

Regis & Shan Andre, Matthew & Catherine Mazzuchi, $730,000, 538 Osgood St

Thomas & Birgit Blass, Zachary Ryan O'Neil & Jessica Anne Reed, $715,000, 270 Marbleridge Rd

Elaine M Haddad, Ainsley D & Heather A Randall, $700,000, 487 Winter St

Melissa Tarentino Tr & Linda M Dean Irrevocable Trust, Vickie Gallant-Pacios, $689,000, 7 Duncan Dr

Marques Realty LLC, Matthew Tanner Comfort & Karissa Carmella Comfort, $688,000, 115 Candlestick Rd

Andrew V & Theresa M Melnikas/Theresa M Burke, Alysia & Joseph DiMartino, $680,000, 60 Wentworth Ave

Vincent T & Eleanor R Lucarini, Jospeh R & Michelle L Nicolaisen, $680,000, 49 Carlton Ln

Lalit K Gala & Chandrika Shah, Christina McGinness, $655,000, 48 Rosemont Dr

176 French Farm Road Realty Trust & Ellen M Ford Tr, Charles & Meghan Leitao, $625,000, 176 French Farm Rd

Rohit Ahuja & Priyanka Arora, James K & Geraldine McGarry, $624,000, 189 Barker St

Lion Realty Trust & Angela G & Frank J Leone Jr Trs, FSB Homes LLC, $620,000, 87 Coachmans Ln

Charles W & Lorna U McDonald, Jaime & Spencer Flores, $620,000, 42 Wesley St

Jeffrey M & Jane C Duboff, Tara M Wiltshire , $616,000, 31 Carty Cir

Jeffrey & Donna Morgenthaler, Sarah & Leif Sorenson, $600,000, 56 Bridges Ln

Van Tuong Do, William & Cara Saw, $550,000, 22 Tilton Ln

Michael J Andreottola, Colleen M Haynes, $519,000, 30-32 Leyden St Unit 1

Elizabeth A & Kenneth Johnson/Kenneth A Johnson, Jason Cabrera, $515,000, 25 Lincoln St

Trinitarian Congregational Church of North Andover, Patrick Melvin, $515,000, 250 Main St

RFR Development Inc, Shawn M & Norah M Slattery Trs & Equestrian Realty Trust, $500,000, 45 Tucker Farm Rd

Andrew Menery, Maricela Polanco & Dennis Marrero Polanco, $498,000, 27-29 Saunders St

Ronald L & Rosemary Caredeo Trs & R and R Caredeo Realty Trust, Nicholas & Stephanie Savarese, $478,500, 10 Lyman Rd

Legacy North Properties Inc, Joseph M & Samantha M Aiello, $459,000, 103 Lyman Rd

Gopalakrishnan Ramaswamy & Vaijayanthi Ammanoor Gomadum, Karen Albino, $451,000, 58 Bucklin Rd

Kelley B Dow, James & Kristin White, $447,500, 288 Middlesex St

Edward J & Lauren Storey, Nazim A Golaurb, $437,500, 976 Turnpike St

Robert & Alison Loiselle, Kevin & Heather Cullen, $430,000, 599 Turnpike St

Scott A & Cheryl A Simpson, Nikunj Parikh & Vidhi Mehta, $425,000, 603 Alder Wy Unit 603

Erica L Megrew, Christine & Joseph Ronca, $389,900, 21-23 Cleveland St Unit 21

Ryan & Michelle Doran, Rebecca Stoodley, $388,000, 34 Church St Unit 34

Francis X Odlum, William & Kara Eagan, $375,000, 65 Prospect St

Jessica A Reed & Zachary O'Neil, Evgeniia & Nathaniel French, $362,000, 5 Harwich St Unit L

Caribbean Realty Investments LLC, Alexander William & Lauren Marie Girroir, $339,900, 40 Perley Rd

Osama A Noureddine, Maicom Pires & Allison Colsen, $330,000, 68 Beverly St

Lisa L Berry, Malik & Julia Japarov, $323,400, 16 Stacy Dr

Paul Murphy Tr & Linda M Kerrigan Tr & Eleanor R Murphy Revocable Trust, Faith O Mangiafico, $322,500, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 306

Syed Bukhari, Michael Mastromonaco, $320,000, 14 Second St

Doherty Family Trust & Patricia A Guard Tr, Seaport Homes LLC, $315,000, 400 Waverly Rd

REAL ESTATE: PAGE 27

No Oversight Over State Dental and Medical Board is The Biggest Barrier

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Governor Charlie Baker did nothing over four long years to fix fundamental regulatory problems at the RMV. This led directly to seven innocent people being killed. Charlie owns those deaths. In order to escape censure and future oversight from the Legislature, Charlie bribed them by signing the budget without even one single line-item veto. As a result one Thomas Bowes will be thrown under the bus and the swamp will continue undisturbed.

One thing that got funded through that bribe is a new 23-member commission. Katie Lannan reported "With an eye on improving and expanding health care services offered in rural and otherwise underserved areas, a new commission established in this year's state budget will dive into issues surrounding the licensing process for medical professionals trained in other countries" and report on "strategies to integrate foreigntrained medical professionals into rural and underserved areas in need of medical services."

Before buying a flashy new boat it would help to plug a gaping hole in the present one: the state dental and medical boards. This month I shall focus on the dental board.

Dental care is an inseparable part of medical care, which is why the ADA has always allowed dentists to treat any part of the body that had an impact on the oral cavity. Dentists also put you on antibiotics before major dental procedures in order to prevent damage to your heart valves. Via the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act the federal government ensures dentists are considered physicians just as any other.

The new commission would do worse than begin by asking the dental board why it destroys forward-leaning dental practices that provide much-desired services to the people.

In the case of Dr. Helaine Smith, who ran a highly successful clinic in West Rox, the dental board destroyed the doctor without even a patient complaint and drove her out of Massachusetts.

The board destroyed a successful woman physician and her small business because it was angry with a Boston Globe article that complimented Dr. Smith's care and reported on her planning to provide Botox treatments. Nine years ago, Dr. Smith would have been among the very first in Massachusetts.

BU now includes Botox in its routine curriculum for students and has developed significant expertise in the field. All the state dental board achieved was destroy a pioneering woman physician and prevent her from being nationally recognized in the field of Botox within dentistry. I can only imagine how different her professional career would have been.

The board couldn't countenance a successful woman physician practicing her profession without begging the state for permission before trying something new. The destruction of Dr. Smith and her Massachusetts practice is a classic exercise in unbridled statism.

Having lived under socialism in India, this is intimately familiar. Before socialists were driven out of power, one needed a state license to, for example, increase production of plastic buckets, in your own private factory, from 1,000 to 1,100 per day. And you could either wait 5 years for that permission or bribe the state official.

It is devastating to see this in one of the United States. This happens because state boards have no oversight at all, even less than at the RMV. State officials always wield power disproportionately when they can. Madison et al explicitly warned against this.

Lannan reports that "more than 20 percent of the over 8,000 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, mental health providers and other medical professionals in the Bay State who were educated abroad are unemployed or underemployed because of difficulties getting licensed in the U.S."

Given that state boards actively destroy US-trained physicians simply because the doctor didn't lick their boots, this is inevitable.

I invite the new commission, funded only through the deaths of seven people from lack of oversight, to strongly urge tough annual oversight for the state medical and dental boards and prevent the destruction of good physicians.

This leads to the further problem of who will audit the boards given that the State Auditor's Office is a card-carrying member of the corrupt swamp that periodically throws the Legislature a bone, food stamps finagles, just to pretend it's doing its job. ◊

Preparation is the Key To Success

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Just like an army preparing to go to war, when you are fighting the battle of the bulge, preparation is the key to success. Going on a diet doesn't have to be a fight (or war) but it is a battle for some of us, and for some of us a life-long battle. Just like any battle, the right preparation could determine the outcome.

Before we even talk about things like diets, food and calories you have to have the right mindset going in. The beginning of any new journey and changes can get quite confusing and overwhelming, especially if you are not mentally prepared for your new healthy lifestyle. When you're in the right place mentally it is easier to begin a healthy change that you will follow. By preparing yourself in advance, you will have more luck following a program designed and prepared by yourself to help avoid quitting when things don't seem the same as when you had no direction or plan in place. So keep a positive mind set and team up with other positive people. Remember if you stay positive, positive energy and positive people will be drawn to you.

Now the preparation comes in. How do we prepare for such a battle? First we have to prepare our "battle station" which for us is our kitchen and where we prepare our food. We need to go through all our cabinets and refrigerators (including freezers) and clean out (purge) all the unhealthy bad stuff. Think about donating it to food pantries (if unopened) or just give it away, as long as it's gone, anything that you will be tempted by or that will derail your new healthy lifestyle.

Then you want to get organized, like I mentioned in past columns it is always great to keep a journal, but now we are going to talk about a different type of journal. This journal will be for you to make your "Meal Plans" and help you see what healthy foods you will be buying to prepare in advance. Choose foods that you like, that are healthy, after all if you just make a list of healthy foods, that you don't enjoy, chances are you'll be quitting after a short time. So, pick foods you like and plan your meals accordingly. You will need to make a new meal plan at the beginning of every week, so think variety (so you don't get bored).

Once you have cleaned out the bad, unhealthy food from your house, made your meal plan for the week and purchased all the new healthy foods, you are on your way to Food Prepping.

My advice is to purchase some plastic food containers in different sizes; they are not very expensive at all; in fact, I purchased all mine from the dollar store. I'm a firm believe that if we make things easier in advance, the better we will follow through with our plan. I hate to make salads from scratch, cutting up all the lettuce, and veggies to make a salad for a single meal, then I will end up eating something bad because it's a quick grab and go item that is not healthy. But if I spend one afternoon cutting up everything I need for my salads and put them in food containers for the week, it's so easy to just throw a quick salad together.

For example, if part of the meal plan you chose for the week, is chicken, brown rice and steamed broccoli,then prepare your chicken, cook your brown rice and then steam your broccoli, when all is cooked put them into your individual, measured out meal containers for the week. The best part is it will save you preparation time when you are hungry making it easier to stick to your plan.

Pick your prep day, (maybe the day you do your shopping), and it really is not a whole day, for those of you worried about time involved. A few hours a week is all it takes. When I have my chicken roasting I cut up and prep all my salad vegetables. Want to save more time, buy one of those already roasted chickens in your grocery store.

Prepping your meals ahead of time will allow you to create your own creative meal plan for the week ahead, and in doing so, will keep you in control of your eating and also by doing it in advance will be less stress, when it comes to deciding what you will be eating at meal time. Preparing and planning your food ahead of time will help you make intentional, healthy choices.

Change is very hard, especially if you have been abusing your body with bad eating habits over the years. You may find it's very difficult do a weight loss program alone. Always seek support from family members and friends. Sometimes it's hard to face people we know and talk about ourselves in a not so glamorous way, being vulnerable, but tell them the truth that you're trying to lose weight and ask for their help. Always seek the help from a close friend or family member when you are feeling frustrated or tempted to eat the wrong food. If you would rather talk to a stranger, there are therapists trained in this area that will listen to you and help you, so you don't have to go at it alone. Talk to them about your goals and ask for their support. You would be surprised at the amount of people that want to see you succeed.

Starting something new is very daunting, don't be scared, be prepared, and to be prepared is half the victory.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. You can find Rick on Facebook at: Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti ◊

REAL ESTATE: FROM 26

N6 Properties LLC, Alyse Trevor, $304,900, 148 Main St Unit S-529

Ronald Aaron Krueger & Yermin Kang Krueger, Radames & Rolanne Gonzalez, $299,900, 622 Chickering Rd

Nicole Venuti, Kinjal Patel, $276,900, 42 Kingston St Unit 42

Freckle International LLC, Lucas J & Amanda L Noble, $267,000, 112 Autran Ave Unit 1

Valerie J Bulzacchelli & Nicholas T Papapetros II, James R & Virginia F Gath, $265,000, 148 Main St Unit A-217

Emily A O'Boyle, Cathy Pappavaselio Tr & 46-48 Phillips Avenue Realty Trust, $248,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 107

Arthur W Lyons III, Katherine Scali & David S Scali & Michelle Leanne Scali & Peter Kaplan, $244,900, 148 Main St Unit B-134

Christopher P Mathews, Rosita Silva-Romero & Lucila Ramos, $235,000, 90 Farrwood Ave Unit 3

Alexander W & Lauren Girroir, Darlene & David Domingos, $235,000, 148 Main St Unit A213

Gerard P & Mary L Walsh, Anthony Lonano & Christine Lonano & Carly Lonano, $230,000, 85 Farrwood Ave Unit 85FW-3

Li Chen, Sandra M Diminico, $228,000, 3 Stacy Dr

Alex B Morin, Oriana Ciuffetelli, $222,000, 3 Fernview Ave Unit 11

Laureen Gibeau-Shakir/Laureen Gibeau, Yevgeniya Tyurikova, $215,000, 41 Farrwood Ave Unit 41FW-12

Fernando Baez & Clarisa Amezquita, Lenny M Villa Cabrera, $210,000, 54 Fernview Ave Unit 2

Daniel M Reilly, Rebekah L Barrasso, $202,500, 58 Edgelawn Ave Unit 9

Francis William Berthiaume Est & Gretchen Berthiaume, Amanda C Guarino, $197,000, 2 Fernview Ave Unit 10

Amanda M Matvichuk, Hayley O'Brien, $176,500, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 216

Linda E Hourihan, Susan Mansfield, $176,500, 1 Harvest Dr Unit 303

Jayson R Martin , Gregory Morin, $165,000, 9 Walker Rd Unit 3

Deutsche National Bank Trust Company Tr, Jennelle Graziano, $131,032, 11 Main St

HMC Realty Trust & H Manning Curtis Tr, Robert Giacobelli, $95,000, 565 Turnpike St Unit 77A

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